TUESDAY
January 10, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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Vol.54 • No.8

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*T&C apply. Product/s shown is/are for representational purposes only. Actual colour, features & specifications may vary. Ather is the only scooter in the world with Google Maps as on 08 Jan 2023. Ather Energy's trademarks are listed at https://atherenergy.com/trademarks. The only official website of Ather Energy is - www.atherenergy.com. All trademarks, logos and brand names are the property of their respective owners. ^As per ARAI certification. **Ex-showroom price of Ather 450+ is inclusive of vehicle charger, Fame II subsidy & state subsidy if any. Exclusive of insurance, road tax and registration charges. ~The valuation mentioned is for indicative purposes only. #Applicable for pre-approved loan customers of select banks. +Applicable on Ather 450X only.

J BG-BGE

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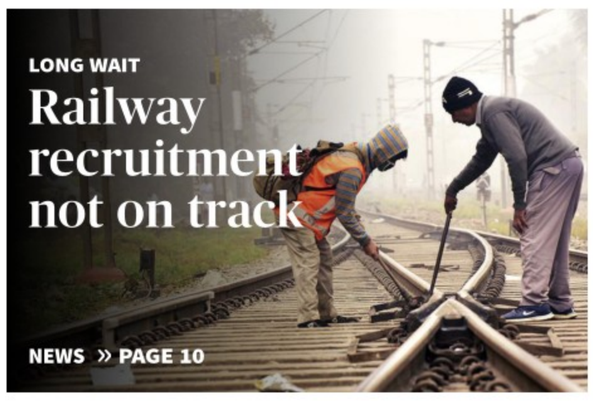
SC CRITICISES T.N.

Forced conversions a serious issue: court

NEWS » PAGE 8



LONG WAIT

Railway recruitment not on track

NEWS » PAGE 10

RESIDENTS IN DISTRESS

Damaged buildings in Joshimath to be razed

NEWS » PAGE 10

JOSHIMATH RATTLED

A mountain reels under human aggression

The Himalayan region is at a tipping point

OPINION » PAGE 7

NEW CHALLENGE

India-Sri Lanka ODI series begins today

SPORT » PAGE 13

Bolsonaro backers storm state institutions; Lula says ex-President egging them on

Reuters
BRASILIA

Supporters of Brazil's far-right former President Jair Bolsonaro invaded the country's Congress, presidential palace and Supreme Court on Sunday, in a grim echo of the U.S. Capitol invasion two years ago by fans of former President Donald Trump.

Leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who defeated Bolsonaro in an October election, announced a federal security intervention in Brasilia until January 31.

Mr. Lula blamed Mr. Bolsonaro for inflaming his supporters after a campaign of baseless allegations of election fraud following the end of his rule marked by divisive nationalist populism.

ANOTHER REPORT
» PAGE 11

Sudden attack: Supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro invade the National Congress in Brasilia on Sunday. AFP

Respect democratic traditions, says Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday joined other world leaders in conveying concern about the rioting in Brasilia. "Democratic traditions must be respected by everyone. We extend our full support to the Brazilian authorities," Mr. Modi said on his social media account.

T.N. Governor walks out of House as CM objects to deviation from speech

Stalin moves resolution to retain on record only the approved version of the Address of the Governor, who had left out portions of the text, including on the Dravidian model of governance

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

In an unprecedented face-off, Governor R.N. Ravi on Monday abruptly walked out of the Tamil Nadu Assembly as Chief Minister M.K. Stalin disapproved of his selective deviation from the approved text of the Governor's Address to the House and moved a resolution to take on record only the transcript distributed to the members.

Trouble began after Mr. Ravi skipped a paragraph containing references to national and regional stalwarts and the term "Dravidian model of governance".

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi walks out of the Assembly in Chennai on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Objecting to Mr. Ravi's action, soon after Speaker M. Appavu read out the Tamil translation of the Governor's tabled Address, Mr. Stalin moved a resolution to retain on the Assembly records only the printed and approved speech copy given to the members earlier.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8
RELATED REPORT
» PAGE 5

Congress, Left parties fault Governor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress and the Left parties on Monday sharply criticised Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi for skipping portions of the address to the Assembly.

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the Governor's actions were a "brazen violation of Constitutional norms".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

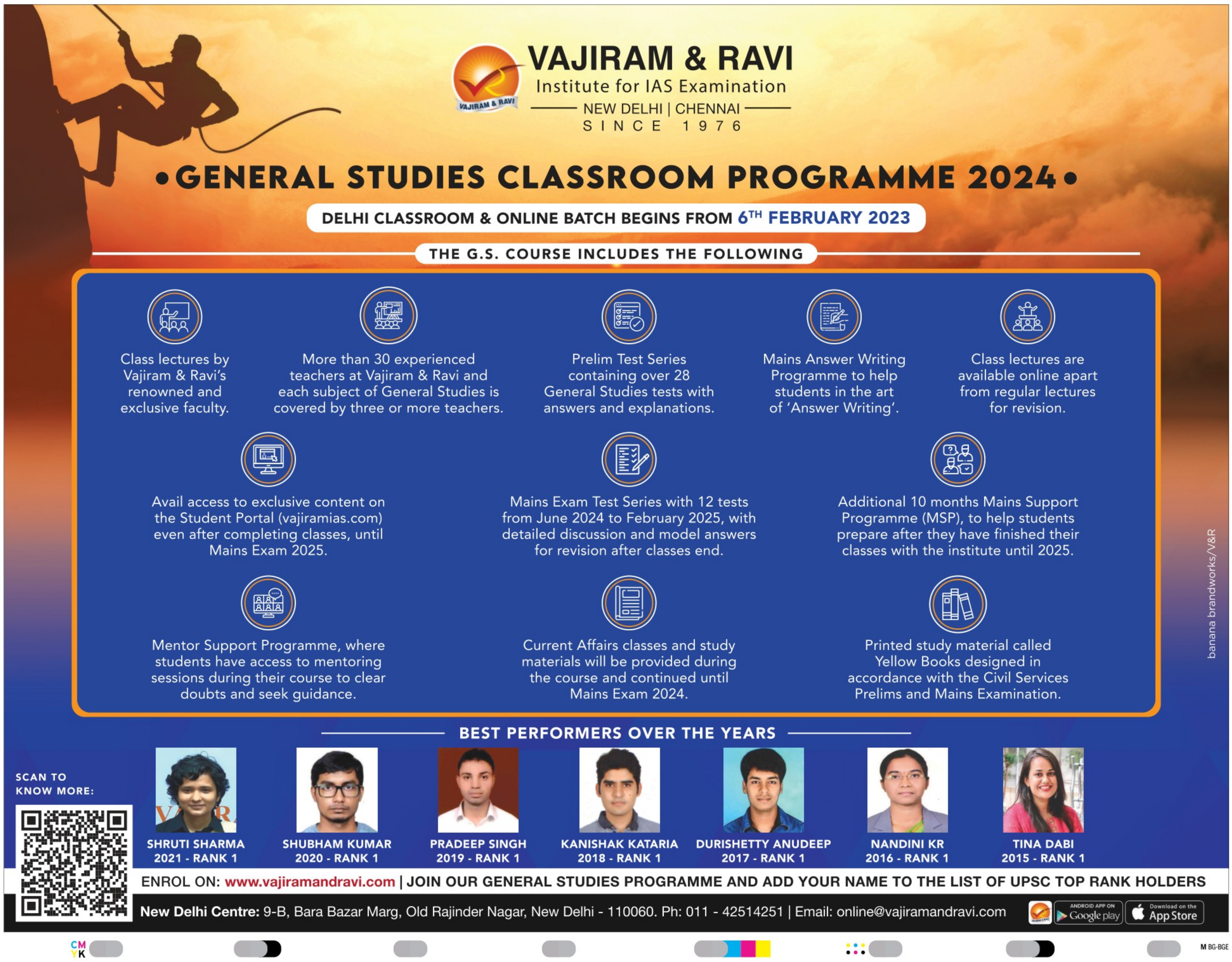
NEARBY

Siddaramaiah wants to contest from Kolar

BENGALURU
Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah on Monday announced that he would contest from Kolar in the 2023 Assembly elections if the Congress high command allowed him to do so. » PAGE 4

Panchamasali seer sets Jan. 13 deadline

HUBBALLI
Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami, seer of Lingayat Panchamasali Peetha, who is leading the Panchamasali movement for 2A reservation, has set January 13 as the deadline for the Chief Minister to clear up the issue. » PAGE4



Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Record high debt capital raised by banks in FY23: ICRA Limited

91,500 In ₹ crore, the debt capital raised by banks in FY23, according to ICRA Limited. Banks recorded a quantum of bonds, with gross issuances hitting an all-time high of ₹0.915 lakh crore, surpassing the previous high of ₹0.8 lakh crore in FY17. It is also likely to close FY23 with ₹1.4 lakh crore. PTI

Many dams in India to lose 26% of storage capacity by 2050: UN

3,700 The number of dams in India that will lose 26% of their total storage by 2050 due to accumulation of sediments which can undermine water security and power generation, according to the UN. The Central Water Commission said that among 141 dams, one quarter had lost at least 30% of their storage capacity. PTI

Loans disbursed to street vendors, small scale entrepreneurs

1,550 In ₹ crore, the worth of loans disbursed to street vendors, small-scale entrepreneurs and cattle rearers at a credit outreach program in a single day by the government, officials from the Finance Ministry informed. More than 33,000 loan sanction letters were handed over under various central government schemes. PTI

The pay gap between men and women in the real estate sector

40 The percentage by which informal women workers earn lower than their male counterparts in the Indian construction and real estate sector, according to 'Pink Collar Skilling: Unleashing the Women's Power in the Real Estate Sector' report which highlights gender inequality in this sector. The report was released by Primus Partners and World Trade Center. PTI

Government creating ecosystem and policies that will benefit many

140 In crore, the number of Indians who will benefit from government policies, as the Union government is creating such an ecosystem, the chief of National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) Bharat claimed. He said public policy in the absence of good governance could not achieve its objective. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The delay in the decennial Census

What are the reasons for the repeated postponement of the 2021 Census? What are its two phases? How will this delay impact administrative functions, welfare schemes and other datasets? Is Census data important to understand migration and migration patterns?

EXPLAINER

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:
The decennial Census of 2021 has been pushed forward yet again and is unlikely to start till September 2023, at least. The Additional Registrar General of India communicated to States on January 2, without specifying a reason, that the date of freezing of administrative boundaries has been extended till June 30. The Census can only begin three months after the boundaries have been frozen, and the completion of the Census in its two phases takes at least 11 months. Thus, even if started in an urgent fashion from October this year, the possibility of its fruition in 2023 or early 2024 is ruled out, as general elections are due in March-April 2024.

Valuable data: A Census official collects details of a family during the first phase of the 2011 Census at a village near Siliguri. PTI

How is the Census conducted?
India's first proper or synchronous Census, one which begins on the same day or year across regions of the country, was carried out in 1881 by the colonial administration and has since happened every 10 years, except the one that was supposed to be carried out in 2021.

The decennial census is carried out by lakhs of enumerators empanelled and trained by the government in two phases. The first phase is the housing Census, where data on housing conditions, household amenities and assets possessed by households are collected and the second phase is where data on population, education, religion, economic activity, Scheduled Castes and Tribes etc are collected.

How many times has the 2021 Census been delayed?
The Census is still conducted under the Census Act of 1948, which predates the Constitution. Notably, the Act does not bind the government to conduct the Census on a particular date or to release its data in a notified period. The Centre's intent to conduct the 2021 Census was notified in the Gazette of India on March 28, 2019. The freeze on administrative boundaries was to be effective from January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, before the COVID-19 pandemic. On December 14, 2022, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai informed the Rajya Sabha, "due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Census 2021 and the related field activities have been postponed until further orders." According to UN statistics, multiple countries had delayed their census exercises due to the pandemic, but many of them, like the U.S., U.K., China, and Bangladesh, have completed the count by now.

What are implications of the delay?
The Census data is crucial for various administrative functions, welfare schemes, and other surveys. Former Union Home Secretary G.K. Pillai said that "the government should take a quick call and the delay is not good and has ramifications,". Explaining one of the implications, Mr. Pillai said that the Finance Commission allocates funds to States on the basis of Census figures and any delay could put them at a disadvantage.

Besides, outdated Census information (available from the last Census in 2011) often becomes unreliable and affects those who do and do not receive the benefits of welfare schemes. As per the National Food Security Act, 2013, 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population – totalling 67% of the country's population – are entitled to receive subsidised food grains from the government under the targeted public distribution system (PDS). According to the 2011 Census, India's population was about 121 crore, and PDS beneficiaries were approximately 80 crore. However, economists Jean Dreze and Reetika Khera have pointed out that population growth over the last decade means that if the 67% ratio is applied to 2020's projected population of 137 crore, PDS coverage should have increased to around 92 crore people.

Former chairperson of the National Statistical Commission, Pronab Sen, told data journalism portal *IndiaSpend.com*, that Census data are critical for other sample surveys conducted in the country as they use the Census data as a 'frame' or list from which a representative sample of the population is selected for surveys. For the latest edition of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) released last year, it was the 2011 data that served as the sampling frame. Besides, the Census is crucial to determine the population of migrants and migration patterns. The start of the pandemic saw a sea of migrants on the country's roads, and the only data available with the government was from 2011, which could not answer queries on the numbers, causes and patterns of migration.

Former bureaucrats also advise, that the exercise of collecting data for the National Population Register (NPR), which was to happen with the first phase of the Census, should now be delinked, owing to its politically sensitive nature and the urgency of the Census.

THE GIST

- The decennial Census of 2021 has been pushed forward yet again and is unlikely to start till September 2023, at least.
- According to UN statistics, multiple countries had delayed their census exercises due to the pandemic, but many of them, like the U.S., U.K., China, and Bangladesh, have completed the count by now.
- Outdated Census information (available from the last Census in 2011) often becomes unreliable and affects those who do and do not receive the benefits of welfare schemes.

Has human-animal conflict increased in Wayanad?

What has been the latest incident in a series of wild elephant attacks in Kerala? Why have such conflicts increased? What can be done to prevent them?

E. M. Manoj

The story so far:
In the latest in a series of wild elephant attacks in Kerala, Subair Kutty, a daily worker, was attacked by a rouge elephant at Sulthan Bathery town adjacent to the Wayanad wildlife Sanctuary in the early hours of January 6. Subair, who was taken to a hospital with injuries, had a miraculous escape. The same elephant further charged at a bus and destroyed crops grown by three farmers on the same day. Meanwhile, a herd of elephants raided a field of 500 plantains belonging to two farmers at Kallur, some 10 kms away from Sulthan Bathery. After a three-day search, the elephant, codenamed Pandalur Makhna-2 or PM2, was caught and has since been relocated to the elephant kraal at Muthanga in Wayanad.

How was the elephant captured?
Initially, the plan was to chase the animal back into the wild. But on January 7, the chief wildlife warden issued an order to capture PM2 and to convert the elephant into a trained one, at the elephant kraal at Muthanga. Officials say two rogue elephants were captured and tamed in the kraal in the last decade.

How rampant is human-animal conflict in Bathery and Wayanad?
A few weeks ago, sightings of a five-year-old tigress at Vakery, some eight kms from Bathery, in the south Wayanad forest division, had caused panic among the residents in the area. Forest officials tried to locate the beast, which was found dead in a plantation three days later.

While the capture of PM2 provided a huge relief to the people of the area, they were nonetheless disgruntled over the perceived lack of apathy on the part of the government in effectively implementing plans to mitigate human-animal conflict. "Human-animal conflict has become a serious wildlife management problem in Kerala in the last few years," says wildlife expert P.S. Easa. People living on the fringes of reserve forests and sanctuaries have a heightened sense of insecurity now. But the causes of this are many. He attributed many reasons to it including an increase in human population in such areas, habitat loss and fragmentation suffered by wild animals and change in cropping patterns adopted by farmers.

Is it a new problem?
Wild elephants turning restive has been reported from several areas recently, most pertinently from Munnar in Idukki, Vazhachal in Thrissur and in Wayanad itself. Crop raid by elephants, cattle-lifting by leopards and tigers, and attacks on humans have also been widely reported. "An analysis of the threats to biodiversity conservation and management of natural resources in various forest divisions of Kerala shows that human-wildlife conflict is a threat existing almost everywhere, but more frequently in the northern region and particularly in Wayanad," Dr. Easa adds. The issue has always been there, but its frequency has gone up lately.

What has led to the spike?
An increase in the intrusion of people into wildlife habitats and the change in land use patterns by cultivators have exacerbated the trouble. Furthermore, these cultivators, who are often development-oriented and believe that the prime job of the forest department is to protect their interests, are less tolerant of crop raids by wild animals, Dr. Easa points out.

What is the way out?
The only solution is mitigation of conflict. For this, both government and society should work together as a single entity and alter perspectives towards wildlife and human existence in the forest and on its fringes. Parallelly, forest conservation must be made more effective, through participatory programmes involving the people, Dr. Easa says.

THE GIST

- In the latest in a series of wild elephant attacks in Kerala, a daily worker was attacked by a rouge elephant at Sulthan Bathery town adjacent to the Wayanad wildlife Sanctuary in the early hours of January 6.
- An increase in the intrusion of people into wildlife habitats and the change in land use patterns by cultivators have exacerbated these incidents.
- The only solution for this is mitigation of conflict. For this, both government and society should work together as a single entity and alter perspectives towards wildlife.

PUBLIC NOTICE

State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Bangalore, Karnataka State, (Constituted by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India), have accorded Environmental Clearance for the construction of "Row Houses and Club House project at Sy.Nos.73/3, 74/2 & 75 situated at Thimmegowdana Hosahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District by M/s. Renaissance Holdings and developers private Limited C/o. M/s. Sobha Ltd vide letter No. SEIAA 138 CON 2022 Dated: 16th December 2022.

The copies of clearance letters/details are available with Karnataka State Environment Impact Assessment Authority at http://environmentclearance.nic.in

M/s. SOBHA LIMITED
Sobha Corporate Office,
Sarjapur-Marathahalli Outer Ring Road (ORR), Devarabeesanahalli, Bellandur Post, Bangalore - 560 103

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the Schedule **Site** Property Bearing **No.548 having BDA Khata No. BDA/RO(S)/548/2010-11, situated at Banashankari 6th Stage, 8th Block, Bangalore** morefully described in the schedule here under from its Owner **Sri. MAJOR A.S.R. NAIDU(now Colonel A.S.R. NAIDU) S/o SRI. A.N.R. Naidu** residing at No.B-08, Flat No.1103, Sandeep Vihar, Army Welfare Housing Organisation, PO Kanna mangala, Biddarahalli, Whitefield, Bangalore- 560115

Any person/s, firms, societies, institutions, entity(corporate or other wise) claiming to have any right, title, interest, benefit, claim or demand in, or to, the Schedule Property & /or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, gift, lease, tenancy, license, assignment, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, family arrange--ment/ settlement, encumbrance, inheritance, bequest, easement, possession, maintenance, develop--ment rights, order/decree judgement of any Court, agreement, understanding or otherwise howsoever, to the Schedule Property, is required to intimate the same, in writing together with true copies of all documentary evidence/proof in support thereof, to the undersigned, at the address given below, within **10 (TEN) DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, our client shall proceed to purchase the Schedule Property without any reference to any such claim and the same, if any, shall be considered as waived and/ or abandoned.

SCHEDULE

All that piece & parcel of the **Vacant Site Property Bearing No.548, having BDA Khatha No. BDA/RO (S)/548/2010-11, measuring East to West 18.00 Meters & North to South 12.00 Meters ad-measuring 216.00 Square Meters, situated at Banashankari 6th Stage, 8th Block, Bangalore** & bounded on:

East By: Site bearing No. 515
West By: Road
North By : Site bearing No. 549
South By: Site bearing No. 547

B.C. Keerthi Kishore, Advocate
No.13, 3rd Cross, 8th Main, Jayanagar 1st Blk East, B'lore-11, **Ph:099864-66139**

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-42/16331/2022-23 **Date:09.01.2023**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK e–Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works of **(1) Formation of Industrial Layout Including Formation of 30M Wide Roads, 24M Wide Roads, 18M Wide Roads & 15M Wide Roads, Including Asphalting, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, RCC Utility Ducts & Chambers, OHT, GLSR, HDPE Water supply Line & Borewell Drilling Works at Jakkasandra Block of Bavanahalli Industrial Area, Malur Taluk, Kolar District. (2) Formation of Industrial Layout Including Formation of 24M & 18M Wide Roads Including Asphalting, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, Rising Main & HDPE Dual Water Supply Pipe Line at Railway Track Block, 3rd Phase Mulwada Industrial Area In Kolhar Taluk (Earlier Basavanabagewadi Taluk), Vijayapura District.**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **19.01.2023 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 1

DIPR/CP/JA/4003/2022-23

Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited (Encore ARC)

acting in its capacity as the Trustee of EARC -EOT - 001 -Trust
Encore ARC Corporate Office Address: 5th Floor, Plot No. 137, Sector 44, Gurugram 122002, Haryana

Public Notice for e-Auction

e-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & proviso to Rule 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (Rules).

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to Bajaj Finance Limited to secure dues in the loan account since assigned to Encore ARC (Secured Creditor) acting in its capacity as the **Trustee of EARC-EOT-001-Trust,** the **Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Encore ARC, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on **10.02.2023 at 11:00 a.m.,** for recovery of **Rs.63,49,665/- (Rupees Sixty Three Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Five Only)** as on **10-10-2022** together with further interest from **11-10-2022** at contractual rate till recovery and other costs, charges etc due to the Encore ARC (Secured creditor), from Borrower viz. **Mr. Pasunuri Sandeep**

The description of the mortgaged immovable properties, and the details of Reserve Price for the Secured Assets & the Earnest Money Deposit are as under:

Item Sr No.	Name of Account	Description of Property	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs.)	Minimum Increment in Bidding Process (In Rs.)
1.	Mr. Pasunuri Sandeep	All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 405 in Fourth Floor of Block A in the project "Definer Kingdom" measuring 1021 Sq.ft of build up area and 139 Sq.ft of proportionate share in common area such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other area of common use and totally measuring 1160 Sq.ft of Super build up area approximately, with right to use one Covered Car parking Space in Ground Floor and the Apartment is bounded by: North: Open to Sky, South: Lobby East: Flat No. A-406, West: Open to Sky Along with 456 Sq ft. undivided share, right , title , interest and ownership in the land measuring 2 Acres 15 Guntas (Minus 1894 Sq.ft., surrendered for road widening to Hosakote planning Authority) in Sy.No. 95, situated in Bommenahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobil, Bangalore East Taluk, duly converted for non-agricultural residential purpose vide order of the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, bearing No. ALN.(EB) (K) SR. 15/2010-11 dated 26.07.2010 and presently bearing Khata No. 956/95 in the records of Mandur Village panchayath and bounded by: North: Remaining portion of Property measuring 0 acres 26 Guntas, land in Sy. No. 102. South : Land bearing Sy. No. 96 & thereafter Govt School, East: Road, West : Land bearing Sy No. 149	Rs. 39,44,000.00 (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakhs and Forty Four Thousand Only)	Rs. 3,94,400.00 (Rupees Three Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand and Four Hundred Only)	Rs. 50,000.00 (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)

Date of Inspection of Secured Assets	25/01/2023 between 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Last Date of Submission of online Bid	Before 3.00 PM on 09/02/2023
Date & Time of e-Auction	10/02/2023 at 11.00 AM to 1:00 PM with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each as per Terms & Conditions mentioned below. Auction Website: **https://bankeauctions.com**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Encore ARC's website i.e. **https://www.encorearc.com** and **https://bankeauctions.com**

Interested bidders may contact Authorised officer of Encore ARC **Mr. Padmakumar S, Mobile No. 97390 99360, Mr. K.Nagendran Mobile No. 91762 91717, Mr B.M. Nagaraju.89399 56230** for any further information / query.

Date: 10.01.2023
Place: Chennai

Padmakumar S, Authorised Officer
Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka undertaking)

No. GESCOM/CEE(O)/EE(RA)/AEE(T)/AAO(RA)/2022-23/49714-18 Dated:07/01/2023

NOTIFICATION

BEFORE HON'BLE KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No. 16, C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagar, Benagaluru-560 052

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application for Approval of Annual Performance Review of FY-22 (Truing Up), Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) & Expected Revenue from Charges (ERC) for the 6th Control Period for FY-24 and Retail Supply Tariff for FY-24 of Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited (GESCOM), Kalaburagi 585102 under Section 27 of the Karnataka Electricity Reform Act, 1999 and under Section 61 & 62 of Electricity Act, 2003, read with relevant KERC (Tariff) Regulations including KERC (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Tariff for Distribution and Retail sale of Electricity Regulations 2006 and MYT Order No. D/01/6, Dated 31.05.2006 and with subsequent amendments.

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (GESCOM)

..... PETITIONER

SUMMARY OF PETITION (NOTICE)

1. NEED FOR REVISION:

A revenue deficit arises due to the mismatch between the revenue receipts from existing tariff and Aggregate Revenue Requirement of GESCOM as detailed below (including subsidy from GoK and regulatory Assets):

Financial Year	Revenue Receipts in Rs. Crores	Revenue Requirement in Rs. Crores	Surplus/(Deficit) Rs.in Crores	Sale unit in MU	Average cost of supply Rs./unit
1	2	3	4	5	6=3/5
2021-22	6027.72	5910.76	10.11	7827.30	7.55
2023-24	6974.62	8135.28	(1160.66)	8470.08	9.60

Total Deficit proposed for recovery from the Tariff Petition: Rs. 1160.66 Crs.

1. The revenue receipts (Income) are estimated as per the existing tariff and deficit could not be recovered at the existing tariff. Hence this petition for revision of tariff is filed **proposing hike Category wise (LT/HT) i.e. increase in Fixed Charges & increase/decrease in Energy Charges,** enabling GESCOM to recover the projected total deficit **Rs. 1160.66 Crs for FY-24** .
2. **PROPOSED TARIFF INCREASE**: The Tariff wise / slab wise existing tariff rates and proposed tariff rates with the hike proposed in both fixed charges and energy charges is shown in Annexure.
3. **Pursuant to Regulation-5 of KERC (Tariff) Regulations 2000, it is hereby notified that the persons who are interested in filing their objections to the above petition may file the same with the Receiving Officer, O/ o The Secretary, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, No. 16, C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagar, Benagaluru-560 052 along with the documents on which they want to rely upon, in six sets, duly supported by an affidavit within Thirty (30) days from the date of first publication of this Tariff Notification and also to indicate whether they want to be heard in person during public hearing. A copy of the objection may be marked to Executive Engineer (El), Regulatory Affairs, Corporate office, GESCOM, Kalaburgi-585102 for furnishing replies to the objections.**
4. For reference of those who are interested, copies of the petition are available with the Executive Engineer Ele, (RA) Corporate Office, Station Main Road, Kalaburgi-585102 and at O&M Circle Office GESCOM, Kalaburagi/Bidar/ Ballari/Raichur/Koppal. A full set of petition copy will also be made available on payment of Rs. 550/- and 1200/- for Tariff Petition copy and GESCOM's replies to Commission's preliminary observations respectively. For both Rs. 1750/-.
5. The soft copy of the ERC / Tariff application, Commission's preliminary observation's Compliance of GESCOM details of existing and proposed tariff can be viewed on our website (**https://gescom.karnataka.gov.in/**) or they may also obtain copies of the required portion / full copy of the petition / KERC preliminary observation / GESCOM replies etc., by paying photocopying / binding charges.

ANNEXURE

Statement Showing Existing Tariff of FY 23 and Proposed Tariff for FY 24.

Consumer Category / Slabs		Fixed/Energy Charges (Rs./Unit) Existing	Proposed
LT-1: Applicable to Bhagya Jyoti/Kutira Jyothi Installations			
Up to 40 Units		8.11	9.60
Minimum Charges		70	
LT-2a(i): Domestic for areas coming under CMC/TMC			
Fixed Charges	First KW Rs.	100	150
	Above 1 KW Upto 50 KW	110	250
	Every KW above 50 KW	175	300
Energy Charges	For 1 to 50 units	4.10	3.90
	For 51 to 100 units	5.60	5.45
	For 101 to 200 units	7.15	7.65
	For above 200 units	8.20	8.50
LT-2a(ii): Domestic for areas coming under Village Panchayat			
Fixed Charges	First KW Rs.	85	140
	Above 1 KW Upto 50 KW	100	200
	Every KW above 50 KW	160	280
Energy Charges	For 1 to 50 units	4.00	3.85
	For 51 to 100 units	5.30	5.20
	For 101 to 200 units	6.85	7.15
	For above 200 units	7.70	8.00
LT-2b(i) Pvt. Professional, Educational Institutions in CMC/TMC			
Fixed Charges	First KW Minimum of Rs.	150	250
	Above 1 KW Upto 50 KW	120	200
	Every KW above 50 KW	175	300
Energy Charges	For First 200 Units	7.30	7.80
	For above 200 units	8.55	9.05
LT-2b(ii) Pvt. Professional/Educational Institutions in Village Panchayats			
Fixed Charges	First KW Minimum of Rs.	135	160
	Above 1 KW Upto 50 KW	110	130
	Every KW above 50 KW	165	195
Energy Charges	For First 200 Units	6.75	7.00
	For above 200 units	8.00	8.25
LT-3(i): Commercial coming under CMC/TMC areas			
Fixed Charges	For 1 KW upto 50 KW	125	250
	Above 50 KW	230	350
Energy Charges	For 0 to 50 Units	8.40	8.20
	For above 50 units	9.40	9.20
LT-3(ii): Commercial coming under Village Panchayat areas			
Fixed Charges	For 1 KW upto 50 KW	115	140
	Above 50 KW	220	250
Energy Charges	For 0 to 50 Units	7.90	7.70
	For above 50 units	8.90	8.70
LT-4a: Applicable to IP sets upto and inclusive of 10HP			
Fixed Charges	Rs./HP	CDT	200
Energy Charges	For all units	6.63	6.70
LT-4b: Applicable to IP sets above 10HP			
Fixed Charges	Rs./HP	110	140
Energy Charges	For all units	3.90	4.00
LT-4c: Pvt. Horticultural Nurseries/Planatations 10HP & below			
Fixed Charges	Rs./HP	100	150
Energy Charges	For all units	3.90	4.50
LT-5a: Industries coming under CMC/TMC areas			
Fixed Charges (Rs./HP)	5 HP & below	90	150
	>5 HP & below 40 HP	100	160
	40 HP & below 67 HP	125	185
	67 HP & above but below 100 HP	190	290
	100 HP & above	225	500
Energy Charges	For 1 to 500 units	5.85	5.75
	For 501 to 1000 units	6.85	6.75
	For above 1000 units	7.15	7.05
LT-5b: Industries coming under Village Panchayat areas			
Fixed Charges (Rs./HP)	5 HP & below	80	140
	> 5 HP & below 40 HP	95	150
	40 HP & below 67 HP	120	175
	67 HP & above but below 100 HP	175	275
	100 HP & above	210	485
Energy Charges	For 1 to 500 units	5.75	5.60
	For 501 to 1000 units	6.70	6.55
	For above 1000 units	7.00	6.85

Consumer Category / Slabs		Fixed/Energy Charges (Rs./Unit) Existing	Proposed
LT-6a: Water supply and Sewerage Pumping installations			
Fixed Charges	Rs./HP/Month upto 67 HP	110	160
Per HP Per Month for every additional KW above 67 HP		215	250
Energy Charges	For all units.	5.00	6.60
LT-6b: Applicable to public street lights / park lights.			
Fixed Charges	Rs./KW/Month	125	175
Energy Charges	For all units	6.65	7.50
LED Lighting	For all units	5.60	7.00
LT-6c: Application to Vehicle Charging Station			
Fixed Charges for LT	KW/month Upto 50 KW	70	70
Fixed Charges for LT	KW/month for Every Addl. KW above 50 KW	170	170
Fixed Charges for HT	KVA/month	200	200
Energy Charges for LT/HT For all units		5.00	5.00
LT-7a: Applicable to Temporary installations for all purpose.			
Energy Charges/Unit For <67 HP		11.20	12.00
Subject to Weekly minimum charge per KW of SL		275	300
LT-7b: Temporary PS for Hoardings Advt.Boards,etc on (Permanent basis)			
Fixed Charges	For <67 HP	150	175
Energy Charges	For <67 HP	11.20	12.00
HT-1: Water Supply & Sewerage treatment plant & pumping installations.			
Demand Charges	Rs Per KVA	250	350
Energy Charges	For all units	5.60	8.10
HT-2 (a): HT Industries			
Demand Charges Rs Per KVA		265	550
Energy Charges	For first 1,00,000 units	7.35	5.85
	above 1,00,000 units	7.60	6.10
Applicable to Railway Traction			
Demand Charges Rs. Per KVA		275	550
Energy Charges	for all units	6.60	5.85
Applicable to Effluent Plants			
Demand Charges Rs. Per KVA		275	550
Energy Charges	for all units.	7.00	5.85
HT-2 (b): HT Commercial			
Demand Charges Rs. Per KVA		290	425
Energy Charges	For first 2,00,000 units	9.05	8.90
	above 2,00,000 units	9.15	9.00
HT-2C(i) Applicable to Govt Hospitals/Educational Institutions			
Demand Charges Rs. Per KVA		260	450
Energy Charges	For first 1,00,000 units	7.20	7.00
	above 1,00,000 units	7.60	7.40
HT-2C(ii) Applicable to Pvt. Hospitals/Educational Institutions			
Demand Charges Rs. Per KVA		265	450
Energy Charges	For first 1,00,000 units	8.20	8.00
	above 1,00,000 units	8.60	8.40
HT-3a(i): Lift Irrigation Schemes of Govt. Department			
Energy Charges	For all units	3.15	6.00
Subject to	Min of Rs. Per HP/Annum	1900	3000
HT-3a(ii): Pvt. LI Schemes/Societies connected to Urban/Exp. Feeders			
Fixed charges	Rs. Per HP	110	300
Energy Charges	For all units	3.15	5.50
HT-3a(iii): Pvt. LI Schemes/Societies other than those covered in HT-3a(ii)			
Fixed charges	Rs. Per HP	90	150
Energy Charges	For all units	3.15	5.50
HT-3b: Irrigation & Agricultural/Horticultural Farms & Plantations.			
Energy Charges	For all units	5.15	5.50
Subject to Annual minimum of Rs. /HP of SL		1960	3000
HT-4: Residential Apartments & Colonies			
Demand Charges Rs. Per KVA		175	400
Energy Charges	for all units.	7.05	5.50
HT-5: HT Temparory installations having 67 HP & above loads.			
Demand Charges Rs. Per HP		325	400
Energy Charges	for all units	11.20	11.40

Consumer can avail the ToD facility upon the request (applicable to LT-5, LT-6(c), HT-1 and HT-2 (Excluding railway traction)).

Facility of Demand based tariff is available for (LT-3 and LT-5) consumers.

Note: In addition to above taxes levied/leviable by the Govt. from time to time shall be applicable

For additional information on the proposed Tariff visit GESCOM Website **https://gescom.karnataka.gov.in**

For Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited
Sd/- Executive Enginer (Ele.)
Regulatory Affairs Section, Corporate Office
GESCOM Kalaburagi-585102

DIP/Kalaburagi/1084/MC&A/2022-23

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE C.J.M. VELLORE, VELLORE DISTRICT
M.COP. No.19/2021

C.Arumugam ...Petitioner
-Vs-
Respondent - 1 :
Mr. G.N.SOMASEKAR, owner of Car KA-04-MH-7221, S/o. Narayanappa, residing at Gangavara, Chowdappanhalli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka. ...Respondent

NOTICE

Please take notice that the vehicle belongs to you the Car bearing registration No. KA-04-MH-7221 involved in road traffic Accident in the above case M.Cop. 19/2021 and Posted for your Presence in person or through your Counsel on **10.02.2023** at 10.00 a.m and make your objection if any. If you fail to do so the matter will be decided Ex parte .

S.SURESH KANNAN, BBA.,LL.B.,
Advocate
Vellore, Cell : 9994831335

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRASATH.K, S/o Kaliaperumal, R/at No.31073, Building-3, Tower-1, Prestige Falcon City, Kanakapura Road, Konanakunte Cross, Bengaluru-560062, have changed my son's name from Nakul to Nakul Prasath vide affidavit dated 09-01-2023 before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

I, ANEESHA Goenka, R/at No.705C, Raheja Residency, 3rd Block, Koramangala, BDA Complex Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560034, have changed my name to Aneesha N Bhojwani, vide affidavit dated 05-01-2023 before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bengaluru.

I, SANTHA W/o Service No.1289406A Rank:Sep (Retired) Name: Appaduri Damodaran, R/o #04, Samuel Cottage, Kithaganur Colony, Medahalli, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560016 have changed my name from Santha to T R Shantha and correction of Date of Birth from 19 yrs at the time of marriage to 23-03-1952 vide affidavit dated 07-01-2023 before Notary Public A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

I, S.M.Lohith S/o S.A. Manjunath R/o 5/1, Karnic Rd, Shankarapuram, Basvanagudi, Bangalore-04 have changed my name to S.M.Lohit for all purposes.

I, Akshata D/o Nanagouda Biradar, r/o H. No.8 Makara Block, Taj Sultanpur, Near Hanuman Temple, K S R P Colony, Gulbarga, Karnataka - 585104, changed my name to Akshata Biradar for all purposes in future.

I,BHAVYASHREE, W/O Rammurthy, R/O FALT NO 217, Mars Enclave, Doddabommasandra, Vidyaranyapura Main Road,Blr–560016.have changed my name as Bhavyashree Udayatharegovinda Bhat" vide afdvt dtd 22/11/2022

As demand for COVID vaccination picks up, State awaits additional stock of vaccine

A consignment of eight lakh doses of Covishield is expected to arrive by next week; demand is relatively high for this vaccine and it has been taken up on priority, says official

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Although the demand for COVID-19 vaccination is again showing signs of picking up in government vaccination centres, the State has limited vaccine stocks. As of Monday, the State had 180 doses of Covishield, 5.47 lakh doses of Covaxin and zero doses of Corbevax. Sources said the Covaxin stock is expiring this month end.

Naveen Bhat, State Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), told *The Hindu* on Monday that the State has sought additional vaccine stocks from the Centre. "We are hopeful of getting a consignment of eight lakh doses of Covishield by next week. The demand is relatively high for Covishield and we have taken this up on priority," he said.

As of Monday, the State had 180 doses of Covishield, 5.47 lakh doses of Covaxin, and zero doses of Corbevax. SUDHAKARA JAIN

According to data from the State Health Department, the total coverage in the first eight days of this month (January 1-8) is nearly 50% of the entire month's coverage in December, indicating that there is a renewed interest in a section of the population to get the third dose. As many as 90,036 doses have been administered from January 1 to 8 while 2,58,539 doses were administered in the whole of December.

Following the global surge, experts have recommended that it is vital for the vulnerable population, especially the elderly, those with comorbidities and immunocompromised persons to take the precaution dose. The overall coverage of precaution dose is abysmally poor with not more than 21% of the eligible population getting the third dose.

The precaution dose coverage is above the State average in four districts. While the highest coverage has been recorded in Bengaluru Rural at 24%, Vijayapura and Ballari follow with 23% coverage. Uttara Kannada has recorded 22% coverage., according to data.

Kalaburgi has recorded the lowest coverage at 11% followed by Dakshina Kannada at 13%. While Tumakuru, Bagalkot and Bidar have recorded 15% coverage each, Shivamogga and Bengaluru Urban have recorded 16% coverage each.

No takers

However, there are hardly any takers for vaccines in private hospitals. Govindaiah Yatheesh, president of Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association (PHANA), said private hospitals are not keen on procuring fresh stocks as of now. "We are concerned about utilising the existing stocks as they will expire shortly. We will wait and watch for the demand to pick up in private hospitals before deciding to procure more stocks," he said.

Sources said with reports about vaccine doses expiring this month, people now want to wait for the arrival of fresh stocks to get the third dose. "Moreover, with vaccination being provided free in government hospitals, private hospitals are more concerned about utilising the existing stock. While people want to wait for fresh stocks, private hospitals are not keen on procuring now," sources said.

Although Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had directed officials to organise special vaccination camps to increase the precaution dose coverage to at least 50% by January end, the camps are yet to begin as the State is awaiting Covishield stocks.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said although the State has adequate stocks of Covaxin, there is no point in organising camps only for Covaxin. "Camps will begin as soon as we receive Covishield stocks," he added.

Contractor, officials in the dock for damaging BSNL lines

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Shankarapura police on Thursday booked a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) contractor and officials concerned for damaging 50 BSNL lines while undertaking drainage work without required permission.

Based on the complaint by S. Muralidhar, sub-divisional engineer, BSNL, the police charged Naveen Babu and BBMP officials under the Karnataka Municipal Corporation Act.

Drainage repair work

Mr. Muralidhar, in his complaint, said that the drainage repair work taken up by Prasanna, employee of contractor Naveen at Rangarao Parallel Road near Jnanajyothi school resulted in damage to 50 lines. The damaged lines include those of a school, bank, college, government office, hospital and many VIP numbers. This has incurred a huge loss to the BSNL, he said. Inquiry by BSNL officials found that Prasanna had neither informed the BSNL not taken required permission from the BBMP. This drainage work has been taken up in collusion with the BBMP officials concerned, he alleged .

The BSNL filed a report with the 24th Additional City Metropolitan Magistrate court and obtained a permission to file a detailed probe.

BBMP finally launches 'Fix My Street' app to report potholes on city roads

THE HINDU IMPACT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Having missed the January 1 launch deadline, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) finally unveiled the 'FixMyStreet' mobile application on January 7, for the public to report potholes on the city streets.

On Saturday, *The Hindu* had reported about the missed deadline and on the same evening, the civic body launched the application.

In December 2022, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath had announced that the 'FixMyStreet' mobile application would be launched on January 1 where people can file reports about potholes and once ratified by a civic official, the app will automatically generate a work order to fill them. This was an announcement welcomed by many, including leading industrialists like Kiran Mazumdar Shaw.

On Monday, Mr. Giri Nath informed that the app was launched and the civic body had received around 350 complaints from the public so far. "We have launched the FixMyStreet application,

A file photo of a pothole-ridden stretch on Palace Guttahalli main road in Bengaluru.

Logo of the 'Fix My Street' app.

where people can directly complain about potholes. So far, we have received 350 complaints and I also reviewed the application with the officials and it is working fine," he added.

How it works

The application is available on both the Android app store and Apple store for download and has an option of "road repair" tab.

"Once people start sending the complaint regarding potholes on the app, it will have to be certified by the jurisdictional assistant engineer. Once certified, the work order gets generated automatically. In the case of major roads, it will go to the 'Python' contractor who has been entrusted with the maintenance of 182 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads. In case of other stretches, the work order will get sent to the hot mix plant," said a BBMP official.

The application had earlier launched in 2017 and was later closed in 2019 due to technical issues. "There were some technical glitches which have been fixed now. The mobile app was launched in 2017 for the general public. However, it was closed to the public in 2019 due to technical issues and was only available for our BBMP officials," the official added.

KIA stands second in on-time performance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has bagged the second spot for on-time performance among global airports, according to the Cirium On-Time Performance Review 2022 Airlines and Airports.

KIA's on-time departures and on-time arrivals were 84.08% and 79.34%, respectively, in 2022. The airport served 98 routes and 40 airlines during the year.

The top spot went to the Tokyo International Airport - Haneda.

"The world's leading airport in on-time performance for a second year however is Tokyo International Airport - Haneda. In 2022, 90.33% of the airport's flights departed on time. In fact, 3 out of the top 10 most on-time global airports are from the Asia-Pacific region. The second spot goes to Kempegowda International Airport - an impressive feat as it was not in the top 20 in 2021," said Airports Council of India (ACI) World Director General, Luis Felipe de Oliveira.

KIA's on-time departures and on-time arrivals were 84.08% and 79.34%, respectively, in 2022. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Two more Indian airports featured in the top 20; Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, bagged the seventh spot, while the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai, bagged the 11th spot.

"These two airports (Indian airports) made significant leaps from 2021 as newcomers to the top 10 most on-time global airport rankings," said Mr. de Oliveira.

Sandalwood logs seized

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police on Monday arrested four and recovered 330 kg of sandalwood logs worth ₹16.5 lakh which they were trying to sell.

Based on a tip-off, a team of police caught Ponnuraj, 35, and Dhruvakumar, 29, near Kaveripura Gudda while they were waiting for the clients. Based on their information, the police arrested Siddappa, 27, and Harish, 34, from Magadi taluk where they confessed to have chopped the trees from the reserve forest area on the city's outskirts.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (January 10, Tuesday), the following explainer is available:

- The delay in the decennial Census
bit.ly/censusdelayed21

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Smt. Vijayalakshmi has lost the original Sale Deed dated 24-08-1991, registered** as **document No. 3114/1991-92,** in **Book I, volume 338,** registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Krishnarajapura, Bangalore in respect of immovable residential property bearing **Site no.1, situated at Devesandra Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore.**

My client had also lodged a complaint dated **30-12-2022** in this regard before the Bangalore City Police, vide **Lost Report No. 0430608/2022.** Inspite of the best efforts same could not be traced.

Therefore it is requested that the general public who ever may find the said original Sale deed or person in possession of the said original document to hand over the same to the undersigned **within one week** from the date of this publication.

P. Mahalinga Bhat & Srividya P.M
Advocates,
TF-2, 3rd Floor, Keerthi Kuteeram Apartment, #2386, Pipeline Road, 2nd Stage, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore - 560078 Mob:9341215791.

DATE : 09-01-2023.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client intends to purchase Residential property morefully described in the Schedule hereunder **["Schedule Property"]** from its ownernamely **Mr. Mohammad Younus Quresh,** S/o Mr. MohdZainul Abedin, aged about 64 years, R/at: #F268/2E-4, KoathKumhar Basil, Hauz Rani, South Delhi - 110017.

If any body has any charge, lien, interest or title or claim or agreement on the Schedule Property, they should come forth with copies of documents in support of such claim and produce the same to the undersigned **within 07 days** from the date of publication of this notice. In the event no such legally tenable claim is received, our Client shall proceed with the purchase of the Schedule Property as if no such claims exist or that they have been waived or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property forming the Western portion of New Municipal No.18, E Swathu Dhakle No.1635783, PID No.96-164-18, situated at 6th cross, R Krishnappa Layout, RT Nagar Post, Bangalore (Earlier bearing Site No's 37 and 44, later bearing Site No.37, in Gramatana Khata No.703, carved out of Larger property bearing No.33/4, situated at Cholanayakanahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore), now within the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Old ward No.96, New Ward No.22, measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 40 feet, totally measuring 1200 sq.ft, along with RCC Building standing thereon, comprising of Ground, First and Second floors, measuring Ground floor 400 square feet, First floor 400 square and Second floor 200 square feet. The construction is made with Bricks and cement, Mosaic flooring for doors jungle wood used, provided with civic amenities and bounded on the:

East by : Eastern portion of property bearing Municipal Corporation No.18,
West by : Road,
North by : Road,
South by : Property bearing No.43,

S.P. Nayak, Advocate
Nayak & Co
Advocates and Legal Consultants
Chamber No. 9/1, First Floor, Nehrunagar Main Road, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mr. JAMES PHILIP PARAYIL** S/o Mr. Parayil Socrates Philip, R/at Flat No.314, SLV Crystal Apartments, Begur Koppa Main Road, Yelanahalli, Bangaloore-560 068 is the absolute owner the property mentioned in the Schedule and he has lost/misplaced the Original Agreement of Sale dated 07-12-2005 executed by M/s. First Realty and Agreement of Construction dated 07-12-2005 executed by M/s. Elite Properties. In this connection, an **E-Complaint has also been lodged on 09-01-2023** pertaining to the Schedule Property.I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said document, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **7 days** and they may be suitable awarded, and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original documents, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **Apartment No.A-10** on the **Second Floor** in the building known as **"KEMPTON PARK",** consisting of Hall, Bedroom, Kitchen, Dining Hall, Bathroom cum toilets, Balconies, etc., with a **Super Built Up Area of 1400 Square feet.** Further, type Apartment No.A-04 together with **617 Square feet** share of undivided right, title and interest in the converted land bearing Sy.No.73 situated at **KUNDALAHALLI VILLAGE,** K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on :

On the East : Remaining Portion of Sy.No.73; On the West by : Annapoornamma's Property; On the North by : Road and Sy.No.81; On the South by : Munkrishnapp's Property (Sy.Nos.61 & 70);

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-500 020.
Contact : 9740718436

RANI CHANNAMMA UNIVERSITY
Vidyasangama, National Highway-04,
Bhootaramanahatti, Belagavi-591156
(NAAC Accredited with B+Grade-2021)
web site: www.rcub.ac.in E-mail: rcuregistrar@gmail.com
Phone No: 0831-2565242/03 rcubuilding2018@gmail.com
Office of the Registrar

Ref:RCU/Belagavi/RO/2022-23/4150 Date: 09.01.2023

-:EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TENDER NO:RCUB/CON2022-23//01 (Through e-Procumbent Portal only):-

Expression of Interest is invited for the Appointment of consultants for providing Consultancy service for Preparation of Detailed Project Report, Conceptualization / Development of plans Architectural designs and drawings, Structural Design and drawings, Electrical, Water Supply & Sanitary, Fire Safety, Solar, RWH, Green Building Concept, Preparation of Planes & estimates, etc of Various infrastructural Projects of Rani Channamma University, Belagavi at main Campus Belagavi, P.G. Centers Vijaypur, and Jamakhandi constituent Colleges and RCUB Jurisdiction, through E-Procurement from Eligible technical consultants as per Slandered Bid Document in two cover System. The Details of the notifications and Conditions etc., can be had with bid document from the website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** the Last date for the Receipt of Tenders (Through e-Procurement portal only) is **23.01.2023 up to 4.00 hrs.**

Sd/-
Registrar
Rani Channamma University ,Belagavi

BANGALORE-MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-01/46/2022-23/1626 Date: 09-01-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Smt. Bhagyamma W/o Sri K. Munibyrappa has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose under Section 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961, pertaining Sy.No: 131/6 Extent 00Acre -28¾ Guntas of B.M. Kaval Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following:

1) After the Change of Land Use of the property the Residential Layout Projects in the above said lands, the poor and middle Class people will get the sites for reasonable price.
2) During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for labourers. After the completion of projects creating jobs in Apartments / Villas.
3) After the Change of Land use in the property as per land use Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Layout / Apartment in the above said lands.
4) By planned layout the public are benefitted with the civic amenities such as good Roads, Parks etc.

Objection, if any, are invited from the public. Any person may file his / her objection to **Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru** in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 16 days from the publication of this notice. Any objection received after 16 days will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/3981/Adverto/2022-23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division,
P U Building, 9th Floor, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.

No.EE/SN/TEND/17/2022-23 Date: 09.01.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division, invites tenders from eligible Contractors for the works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs.)
	TWO COVER - KW-3		
1	Construction of Drain and Roads at 1st cross, Cross road Cambridge Road and surrounding Areas in ward No. 179, Jogupalya.	77.00	1,54,000/-
2	Improvements to Road and Drain at Stanely Road and Yarappa Garden Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 180, Agaram.	80.00	1,60,000/-
	SINGLE COVER		
3	Construction of Specially abled friendly Toilets in Mayabazar, Ward No. 180, Agaram.	18.80	47,000/-
4	Construction of Specially abled friendly Toilets in Sunnenahalli Main Road in Ward No. 184, Vannarpete.	15.00	37,500/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement portal **from 10.01.2023 onwards. 2)** Pre-pid Meeting : **13.01.2023 at 4.00 p.m. 3)** Last date for uploading filled tender document: **24.01.2023 upto 4.00 p.m. 4)** Date of opening of tenders: **25.01.2023 (if possible).** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division.

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No. BMICAPA/CLU-01/40/2022-23/1629 Date: 09.01.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

Sri D.M.Ram to Late D.H.Maruthi has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Commercial (Commercial Complex)"** purpose under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961, pertaining Sy.No: 133 Extent 0Acre-30Guntas (Excluding 0A-13Guntas Aquired for NH) part of 05Acre-20Guntas of B.M.Kaval Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) By developing the Commercial Projects in the above said lands, the poor and middle class people will get the jobs and Trade/Buisness transaction.

2) During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for labourers.

3) Surrounding area will be developed by developing the commercial complex in the above

said lands.

4) By planned layout the public are benefitted with the civic amenities such as good road, parks etc,.

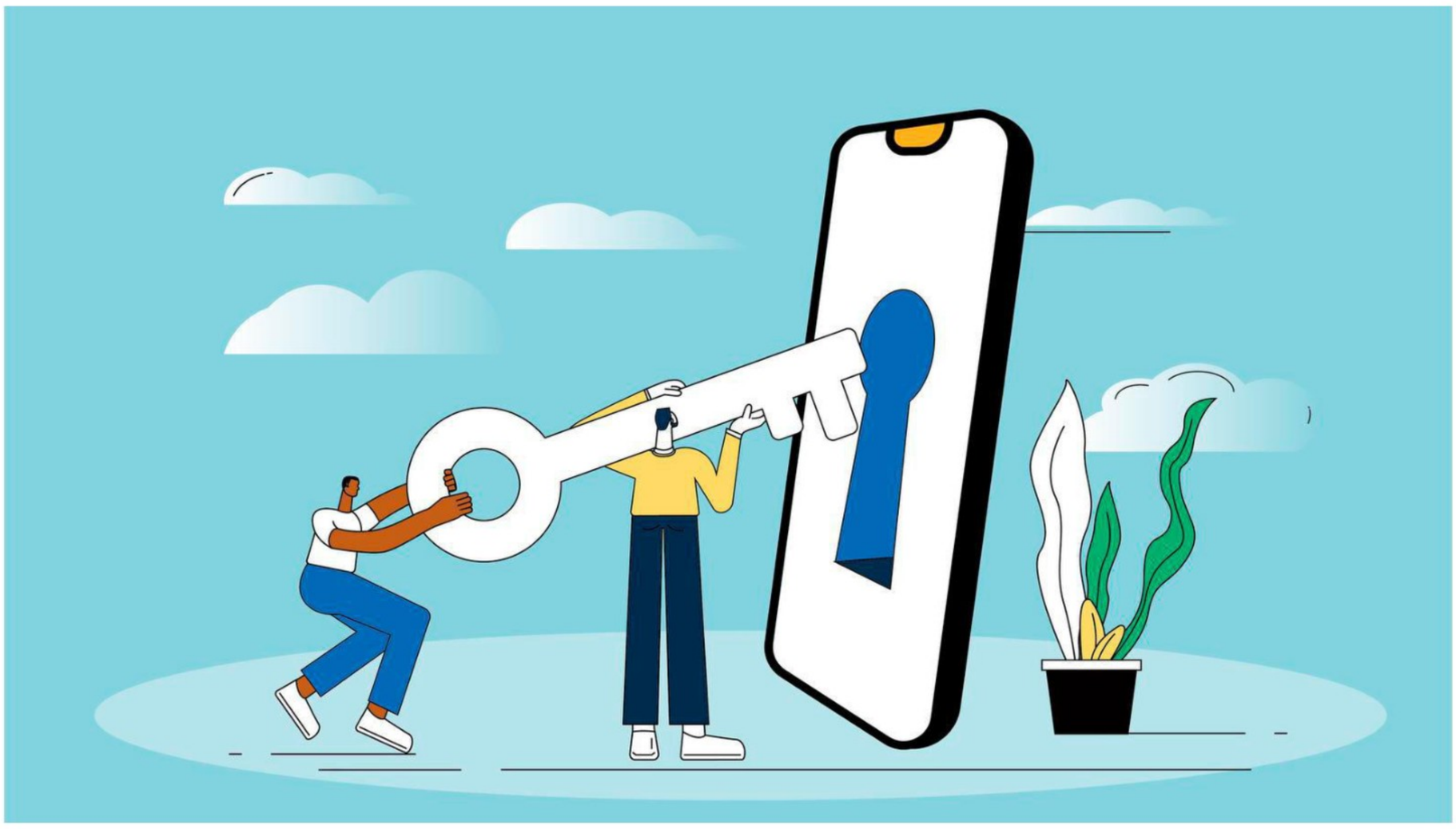
5) To development the Commercial area Government will get the Tax.

Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 16 days from the publication of this notice. Any objection received after 16 days will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/JA/3987/2022-23

KEYWORD



GETTY IMAGES

The open access movement, to make academic papers accessible for all

The OA movement is prominent today because of the high cost of accessing scientific papers. There are multiple OA initiatives which make scholarly work free and attainable. India recently took the first steps toward the same with its 'One Nation, One Subscription' (ONOS) scheme

Vasudevan Mukunth

Open access (OA) is a term associated with certain practices in academic publishing which improve access to scholarly work. An OA scientific paper will be free and fully accessible. The OA movement is prominent today because of the high cost of accessing scientific papers. It's common for a paper published by many journals to cost $15+ to read once and $30+ for permanent access. Subscriptions to these journals have also become more expensive, costing universities several crores a year. There are many OA initiatives that offer better alternatives. India recently took the first steps of its 'One Nation, One Subscription' (ONOS) scheme: the government, instead of universities, will negotiate with publishers for a capped and fixed fee to access their papers (of studies funded by the state) and pay the fees, so that everyone in the country can read the papers at no additional cost. The Education Ministry has so far shortlisted 70 publishers and set an implementation deadline of April 1, 2023.

How papers are published

Scientists write up a paper and submit it to a journal. Editors at the journal share the manuscript with peer-reviewers – experts on the same topic who scrutinise the authors' claims, and also provide feedback on structuring the manuscript, including references to previous results, reaching certain conclusions, etc. After the review is complete, the draft is finalised and the journal publishes the paper – in print, online or both.

In the 'subscription model', papers published online are behind a paywall. Paywall fees have increased in leaps over time. In a 2018 analysis, Duke University found that 59 of the 100 "most highly cited articles ever published are behind a paywall" and that the "average cost of one of these articles for an unaffiliated researcher is $33.41" – or ₹2,285 (2018). A 2020 report prepared by fellows of India's science academies wrote, "During 2018, India spent an estimated ₹1,500 crore for subscriptions to [e-journals] and/or print journals." Higher access costs put papers out of reach of other researchers as well as journalists, policymakers, students, etc.

The different types of OA

OA gained momentum with the advent of the internet in the early 1990s, followed by researchers', librarians', and other stakeholders' interest in reducing publishing costs and improving access. In 1991, physicist Paul Ginsparg created arXiv.org, a preprint repository. A preprint is the manuscript before it has been submitted to a journal. Preprint papers aren't peer-reviewed in the conventional sense, but some workarounds exist, like post-publication peer-review.

The availability of preprints prompted many journals to switch to OA as well, but with a twist. Some of them began to charge the authors of a paper before publishing instead of the paper's readers after publishing – a fee that journals called an article processing charge (APC). The APC model is called Gold OA. There are two other types that are popular, and several others overall. In Green OA, an institute-level repository archives copies of papers by its researchers and makes them public after an embargo period, often specified by the journals that publish the papers. In Diamond OA, a journal publishes papers at no cost. Additionally, while hybrid journals follow the subscription model, once a paper is published and paywalled, its authors can pay extra to 'make' it OA.

There are also gratis and libre OA. According to one definition, "gratis OA alone allows no uses beyond fair use, and libre OA allows one or more uses beyond fair use". Sci-Hub, a web platform that provides open-access to lakhs of illegally obtained research papers, and whose legality is currently being considered in the Delhi High Court, is said to be Black OA.

However, many journals charge exorbitant APCs. *Nature Communications* publishes papers that are openly available but its APC per accepted paper is ₹5.2 lakh. (There are waivers for low-income and lower-middle-income countries but India isn't eligible.) In 2016-2019, the 2020 report stated, Indian researchers spent ₹38 crore to publish papers in "just two OA journals: *PLOS One* and *Scientific Reports*".

The government conceived of ONOS in 2020 to lower this bill, but experts remain sceptical. There are three main concerns – first, while the government will pay a fixed sum to journals, this sum could still be large; secondly which journals will be included in the negotiations and why? (a 'recommended list' faced some resistance in 2020); and finally as India has a large population of researchers with diverse interests, journals may not agree on a common price.

The future of OA

UNESCO's 2021 'Recommendation on Open Science' asked that "no one [is left] behind with regard to access to science and benefits from scientific progress" as countries confront epochal problems like global-warming and zoonoses.

The contemporary focus is on the means to secure OA's adoption. In 2018, an international consortium created an initiative called Plan S. The member-organisations under Plan S work to ensure that from 2021, "scientific publications that result from research funded by public grants" are "published in compliant OA journals or platforms". In January 2021, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation deployed a policy to enable "the unrestricted access and reuse of all peer-reviewed published research funded, in whole or in part, by the foundation". Other research-funding organisations have published similar policies.

However, researchers required to meet such targets often pay large sums to Gold OA or hybrid journals.

Michael Donaldson, a member of the scholarly publishing industry, has written that across the industry, the OA transition "has been slowed by the challenge of identifying sustainable ways to cover the costs of OA publishing."

In the words of librarian Melissa Cantrell, "If we imagine scholarly communications as a city, OA strategies may dwell in the tall, reflective high rises, but we should pay more attention to the OA practices ... in the huddled masses on the street".

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Mr. Ch. Satyanarayana of Tanuku wants to know the meaning of the idiom 'a dog in the manger'."

"A manger is a long container in which food is placed for horses and cattle. There is a story in *Aesop's Fables* relating to this. A dog was sitting in a manger and would not allow any ox or horse to feed on the hay. The dog had no use for the hay but it would not allow others to enjoy it. A person who prevents others from enjoying what he himself does not need or cannot enjoy is 'a dog in the manger'.

I don't like his dog-in-the-manger policy."

"Mr. A. Venkateswarlu of Chintalapudi wants to know the meaning of 'laid-back'."

" 'Laid-back' is used as an adjective in the sense of 'relaxed, casual'.

I admire his laid-back attitude to life.

I enjoy his laid-back style of writing.

This expression is of recent origin."

"Mr. M. C. Narasaraju of Chirala wants to know the difference between 'cost' and 'price'."

"The cost of a thing is the amount spent on making it. It does not include profit. The price of a thing is the amount at which it is offered for sale. Generally it includes profit. A price tag is a label on which the price of a commodity on sale is indicated. Sometimes a thing that cost practically nothing may fetch a high price because of scarcity of the commodity. Sometimes an article may be sold below the cost of its manufacture."

"Several readers want to know the meaning of the expression 'state of the art'."

" 'State of the art' is the state of a particular discipline at a particular time. It refers to the development of a discipline at a particular time.

His paper on the state of the art in Modern Architecture was greatly appreciated.

Are you going to speak on the state of the art in para-psychology?"

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Pongal, a multi-day harvest festival celebrated by Tamils in India and Sri Lanka is right around the corner. Here is a quiz on various harvest festivals

Venkataraghavan Srinivasan

QUESTION 1

By what name is the harvest festival of the Garo tribe which marks the onset of winter known as? A 100 drums are played during the occasion. During this festival, the Sun God is worshiped with immense devotion and zeal. Women wear their traditional colorful clothes and dance while men rhythmically drum their fingers on the traditional drum pads.

QUESTION 2

In which State is the harvest festival Nuakhai celebrated? The festival is also known as Nuakhai Parab or Nuakhai Bhetghat.

QUESTION 3

In which month as per the Tamil calendar is the harvest festival Pongal celebrated?

QUESTION 4

This harvest festival celebrated in the Punjab region of India and Pakistan is linked to popular folklore around Dulla Bhatti. The central theme of many songs during the festival is the legend of Dulla Bhatti. He was regarded as a hero in Punjab, for rescuing Punjabi girls who were forcibly taken to be sold in slave markets. Name the festival?

QUESTION 5

Bihu is a set of three important Assamese festivals in the Indian State of Assam. They include 'Rongali' or 'Bohag Bihu', 'Kati Bihu' and 'Bhogali' or 'Magh Bihu'. Out of these three, which one is the harvest festival celebrated in mid-January?

Visual question:

What does this stone inscription currently in the Salem district museum and originally excavated from Peththa Nayakkan Palaiyam, Attur taluk, Tamil Nadu, India signify?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Mt. Everest was recognised as the highest point on the Earth's surface after this mega survey. **Ans: The Great Trigonometrical Survey of India; the original name of the mountain was Peak XV.**

2. The local name for the mountain in Tibetan and Nepali. **Ans: Chomolungma and Sagarmatha**

3. The mountain has 'grown' from its earlier accepted height by these many feet. **Ans: Seven feet (two metres)**

4. This stratovolcano is the farthest point from the Earth's centre. **Ans: Chimborazo in Ecuador**

5. The year in which Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary scaled the peak. **Ans: 1953; the expedition was led by John Hunt**

6. This legendary climber when asked why he wanted to scale the peak, famously uttered "Because it's there?". **Ans: George Mallory**

Visual: Identify this legend. **Ans: Nawang Gombu, the first person to scale the peak twice**

Early Birds: Teena Achint| Ravindra Kumar Sahu| Aditi Chandel| Tania Neogi

Word of the day

Prosaic:
not fanciful or imaginative; lacking wit or imagination; not challenging; dull and lack of excitement (used as an adjective)

Synonyms: pedestrian, earthbound, humdrum, unglamorous, commonplace, matter-of-fact

Usage:
My hometown is a really small prosaic place.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/prosaicpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /prə(ʊ)'zeɪɪk/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Religious leaders and educationists bat for 'activity-based moral education'

Many say teachers should be trained in value education first. Minister says it will be implemented in school from the 2023-24 academic year

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Value education should be an activity-based teaching module, and teachers should be trained in value education first, said many prominent religious leaders and educationists who participated in a consultative round table meeting on 'Implementation of Value Education in School Education' conducted by the Department of School Education and Literacy on Monday.

The meeting saw leaders from Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Jain, and other religions participate.

Minister B.C. Nagesh, Chairman of Karnataka Knowledge Commission K. Kasturirangan, and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri, along with seers and heads of various educational institutions, at the round table meeting in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Vishwaprasanna Tirtha Swami of Pejawar Mutt, Udupi, spoke about the need for activity-based value education: "Earlier, Panchatantra stories were taught to the children as part of value education. Now we should adopt value education through small dramas and students should play parts and characters. Telling the stories through cartoon is another way to teach value education effectively to the students," he said.

Shivamurthy Shivacharya Swami of Taralabalu Mutt of Sirigere said, "Now students are getting only job-oriented and business-oriented education in our educational institutions, but not value education. Therefore, value education is highly needed for our children. Before them, if the teachers are trained in value education, automatically students will be changed morally."

He also expressed his displeasure with elected representative abusing each other and emphasised on the necessity of value education for them as well. He also proposed a separate Bill for value education for public representatives.

Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, Speaker, Legislature Assembly, said, "Moral education is needed for legislature, executive, judiciary and media also. The media and social media have higher responsibility for what to publish and what not."

Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswami of Suttur mutt, Mysuru, said, "Instead of teaching, we should execute religiosity and morality in practice. In the past years, Ramayana, Mahabharatha and other mythological stories were part of value education. However, mobile phones have become everything for children. Therefore, to bring them out from that addiction, value education for children, parents and teachers is needed," he said.

In his speech, Sadguru Madhusudan Sai said teachers are role model for students. Therefore, teaching value education for the teacher is a must. Activity-based moral education is important and moral education should be with spiritual education, he added.

Gangadharendra Saraswathi Swami of Swarnavalli Mutt batted in favour of Bhagavad Gita as a part of school curriculum.

In his conclusion, B.C. Nagesh, Minister for the Department of School Education and Literacy, said, "Implementation of value education to the school children is a decade-old demand. This is the fist meeting in this regard and it was very successful. We will consolidate all these opinions and conduct a second meeting at Mysuru. We will constitute an expert committee and then implement value education in school from the academic year of 2023-24."

'Distribute *satvik* food to schoolchildren'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Some seers and experts recommended that '*satvik* food' should be given to schoolchildren, during the consultative round table meeting on 'Implementation of Value Education in School Education' on Monday.

In his video address, Gangadharendra Saraswati Swami of Swarnavalli Mutt said, "There is a scientific relationship between food and the person's state of mind. Ayurveda and modern science also say this. *Satvik* food will create *satvik* behaviour in children and *rajasic* food will create anger, fury and negative attitudes. Therefore, the government should think of providing *satvik* food in schools and parents should adopt *satvik* food at home too. Cow milk products such as ghee will increase the intelligence of the children and it will helpful for overall development."

Vishwa Prasanna Tirtha Swami of Pejawar Mutt, Udupi, said, "Students should not be exposed to butchering of meat in houses and market places because it can have a negative impact on them. "

Tejaswini Ananthakumar, founder of the NGO Adamya Chetana, said, "Initially, I was opposed to distributing eggs to schoolchildren. But, I am not against it now. But distributing eggs is not only the solution for eradicating malnutrition in schoolchildren. Providing eggs at home is also another solution."

Responding to the suggestions, B.C. Nagesh, Minister for Department of School Education and Literacy, said, "Seers and experts have expressed their views on food. There is also talk across the globe that milk and meat are also not good for health. But, there is no decision on food being distributed in the schools. "

INBRIEF

Contractors protest opposing uncleared bills by BBMP

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Contractors' Association on Monday started an indefinite strike demanding abolishing of the package tender system and payment of their bills, which have not been cleared from the last 25 months, according to the association.

However, later in the evening, they called off their indefinite protest and the members said that they will take up the issue with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai soon. Association vice-president G. Venkatesh said, "We have called off the strike for now and will meet the Chief Minister and also officials from Urban Development Department soon. The BBMP has failed to clear our bills which have been affecting us for the last 25 months." "The BBMP calling package tender will prevent all small contractors from participating in the tender process. We are requesting the BBMP Commissioner to immediately pay all the dues," he added.

Meanwhile, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said that the civic body has cleared contractors bills till November 2020 and bills from December 2020 are pending for payment. "We have started up a revenue collection drive and will make payment as per procedure soon. There is nothing to be worried about. The new package tender should be adopted by contractors since the process is working well," he said.

No power supply tomorrow in Jayanagar division

There will be no power supply on Wednesday in the following areas owing to carrying out maintenance works.

According to a press release from BESCOM, Jayanagar division, the areas to be affected are: 66/11 kV Sarakki substation - between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.: Shankambari Nagara, Pipe Line Road, Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, J.P.Nagar 1st Phase, 14th Cross, Puttenahalli, Jayanagar 5th, 7th and 8th Blocks, 24th Main, LIC Colony, K.R. Layout, Venkatadri Layout, J.P. Nagar 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Phases, Marenahalli, Manjunath Colony, Bannerghatta Road, Sarakki Gage, SBI Colony, Sangam Circle, Jayanagar 4th, 5th and 8th Blocks. 220/66/11 kV Khodays Glass Factory station from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Konanakunte, Thalaghattapura, Doddakallasandra, Shreenidhi Layout, Avalahalli.

Wrong use of one English word by BDA in lease deed created havoc: High Court

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has quashed Bangalore Development Authority's letter asking city-based Suchitra Cinema and Cultural Academy to return a "donation" of ₹50 lakh after statutory auditor raised objection for such a donation made while renewing the lease deed in 2010.

The court said that wrong use of terminology 'donation' by the BDA in the lease deed for the concession given in the form of lease of civic amenity sites, though there was no 'donation' of any amount to the academy, had led to the statutory auditors raising objection for 'donation'.

Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the order while allowing the petition filed by the academy, a trust, questioning the letter written by the BDA in 2014 seeking return of the 'donation' amount.

"The wrong employment of this one single word of English has played havoc in the matter to a great prejudice to the petitioner-trust. It was Bertrand Russell who decades ago had said that, if language is said is not what is meant, then what needs to be done would remain undone or misdoing," the court observed.

The court said that the BDA, which had given some concession to the academy based on the instruction of then Chief Minister, could have offered a proper explanation to the audit objections clarifying what 'donation' meant in the light of concession given in the lease but it did not choose to do so.

Even the auditors have not sought any explanation from the academy, the court said while pointing the auditing team was swayed away by this English word without ascertaining the substantial nature of the transaction of renewal of lease deed as the concession of the kind given by the BDA to the lessee is not alien to the law of leases. By no stretch of imagination such a concession could have been termed as 'donation', the court observed.

The BDA had initially leased the CA sites in favour of the Academy for 30 years in 1979 and the lease was renewed in 2010 with certain concessions.

'Hijab ban deprived several Muslim girls of their constitutional right'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The hijab ban in the State deprived several Muslim girls of their constitutional right to education, expression, dignity and non-discrimination, said 'Closing the Gates to Education, Violations of Rights of Muslim Women Students in Karnataka,' a report released by the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) Karnataka on Monday. The report recommended that the State government should compensate them for the losses they have suffered.

The report argued that the judgment by the Karnataka High Court "did not include, in its ambit, a directive to any educational institution to impose hijab ban with immediate effect." It added that as the judgment and the interim order came at the time of end-of-year examinations, it had far-reaching consequences. "Despite there being no compulsion to impose a ban, educational institutions across Karnataka, at one stroke, prohibited the hijab. With complete disregard to protocols and due process and the rights of Muslim women students, schools, PU colleges and degree colleges imposed the sweeping ban," the report said.

Further, the report recommended to the Department of Collegiate Education and Department of Public Instruction to issue a directive which clarifies that the judgment by the Karnataka High Court does not mandate a ban to all schools and colleges.

The study was conducted in Hassan, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Shivamogga, and Raichur - to represent and analyse the impact of the judgment in three regions - south Karnataka, coastal Karnataka and north Karnataka. The study team held conversations with students from PU colleges and degree colleges with help from civil society organisations.

"Based on the documentation of all testimonies, the team analysed the testimonies and identified the fundamental rights of students that were violated. The team also observed that the testimonies of the district administration, college authorities and police revealed how they violated the Constitutional mandate of their offices," the report stated.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, JAN. 10
RISE 06:44 SET 18:09
RISE 21:02 SET 09:12

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11
RISE 06:45 SET 18:10
RISE 21:49 SET 09:50

THURSDAY, JAN. 12
RISE 06:45 SET 18:10
RISE 22:35 SET 10:26

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	19
Mysuru	29	16
Bengaluru	28	15

Bengaluru Today
26°C A dry weather to prevail. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
26°C The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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BBMP floats tender again for Ejipura flyover

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Ejipura flyover in Koramangala is infamous for the inordinate delay in its construction. Now, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has invited bids for a tender worth ₹144 crore to complete the project.

In March 2022, the State government had cancelled the tender awarded to Simplex Infrastructure Ltd. for construction of a flyover between Ejipura Main Road and Kendriya Sadan in Koramangala as per the directions of the High Court of Karnataka.

BBMP officials said that the new tender was floated after its engineers undertook a joint measurement and assessment exercise with the project consultant and Simplex. "We have conducted an assessment of the work done so far. The remaining work should be completed by the new company. We hope the flyover will be ready by March 2023," an official said.

Construction of the 2.5-km-long flyover in Koramangala in Bengaluru was taken up in May 2017, and work was to be completed in November 2019. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In 2022, while cancelling the tender given to Simplex, the Urban Development Department (UDD) had directed the BBMP to float a fresh tender for the remainder of the work within the project cost of ₹204 crore as per norms of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act.

Construction of the 2.5-km-long flyover was taken up in May 2017 and work was to be completed in November 2019. The company failed to complete the project even after the BBMP extended the deadline till December 2020 by imposing a penalty for the delay.

The BBMP had issued several warnings and even served two notices to the contractor for failure to adhere to the revised deadline.

For more than a year, work on the flyover had come to a standstill. This had prompted the local MLA and former Minister Ramalinga Reddy to stage a protest along with local residents, who were greatly inconvenienced by the incomplete work.

BBMP officials said that two contractors had participated in a new tender floated in August 2022. However, the tender couldn't be awarded due to various reasons.

Threat to commuters

The incomplete flyover poses a threat to residents and motorists with construction debris being dumped below the flyover. Motorists fear that the metal barricades and debris lying on the road are posing a danger to two-wheeler riders, other vehicles and pedestrians.

Local residents say that despite complaining to the BBMP about the risk from the debris, the authorities have not taken action so far.

"It's been years that construction of the flyover has stopped. However, the civic body has not removed the construction waste under the flyover, which poses a risk to motorists. During the night, motorists are at risk as large stones and cement materials used for construction are not visible," complained Ruchi Srivatsva, a motorist in Koramangala.

योजना तथा वास्तुकला विद्यालय, विजयवाडा
School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada
An Institute of National Importance, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India.
Ref.No.SPAV/Estt./Rect./Teaching Dt: 09.01.2023
Advertisement No.1/2023 FACULTY RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION
School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada invites applications from Indian Nationals for the following Faculty Positions on Direct Recruitment Basis:

Sl. No.	Department	Name of the Posts	Total No. of Post	Pay level (7th CPC)	Reservation GEN	SC	ST	OBC	EWS
1	Planning	i. Professor	1	14	-	-	-	01	-
		ii. Associate Professor	2	13A1	-	-	-	02	-
		iii. Assistant Professor	2	10	-	01	-	-	01
		Total	5						
2	Architecture	i. Professor	2	14	-	01	-	01	-
		ii. Associate Professor	4	13A1	-	01	01	01	01
		Total	6						

PwD reservation shall be applicable as per extant Government of India orders. Reservations for SC/ST/OBC/EWS/PwD are applicable as per Government of India orders.
For detailed information regarding qualification, experience and other terms & conditions and online/ offline application forms, visit our website **www.spav.ac.in.** The last date for receipt of applications is 30 days from the date of publication of advertisement in employment news.
Sd/- Director

Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education
Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Govt of India
17°27'24" N Latitude 78°18'28" E Longitude website: www.mgncre.org
3 Post-Doctoral Fellowships
MGNCRE invites applications from Indian Scholars/ Faculties Pursuing Post-Doctoral Research, for the one year MGNCRE Post-Doctoral Fellowships.The last date for submission of application on email is on or before 30.01.2023(Monday). The broad disciplines of study, within the domain of social sciences, are:
1. Social Work(Social Entrepreneurship and Rural Engagement)
2. Management/Rural Management
The detail guidelines and application format are placed at our website: www.mgncre.org.
Filled in Application in the prescribed format for Post-Doctoral Fellowship shall be sent on email **pdfmgncre@gmail.com** before the last date **30.01.2023 (Monday)**
Note : Candidates who have applied previously need not apply again.
Sd/-
Member Secretary, MGNCRE

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INBRIEF

Speaker calls on Deve Gowda

Speaker Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri called on former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda in Bengaluru on Monday. The visit is said to be a courtesy call as the veteran leader had health issues recently. It may be noted that a several political leaders, including Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah, had visited Mr. Gowda a few months ago to enquire about his health.

Honorary and annual awards presented

Behind the physical growth of India, there is the hard work of the Lambani community, said folk scholar and Kannada writer Go. Ru. Channabasappa. He was speaking after inaugurating the 2022-23 honorary and annual awards presentation ceremony organised by the Lambani Samskruthi Bhasha Academy on Monday. The honorary awards were presented to M. Shakuntala Hanumantappa, P.K. Khandoba, B. Heeranayka, D.B. Nayka, and Gangappa Kemappa Lamani. The recipients of annuals awards were: Gulab Singh Megu Pattar, Kotresh Nayka, Sarangi Umnanayka, Gundachandranyka, Shantibai Kashyanayka, Savithri Mantresh Lamani, Sopanarao Rupla, Puttibai Meetyanayka, Devalappa Teekappa Lamani, and Manjunath Jayachandragiri.

National conclave on financial literacy tomorrow

The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, and National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR) will hold "Saksham", a national conclave on financial literacy on January 11. It will be attended by 350 participants from State Rural Livelihood Mission, NABARD, Public and Private Sector Banks, World Bank, RBI, sector experts and women from self-help groups. The conclave will be held at Leela Bharati City Hotel, Hegade Nagar, Bengaluru. According to a release, during the conclave, the Minister of State for Rural Development will launch the national campaign under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at 3 p.m.

Siddaramaiah wants to contest Assembly elections from Kolar

The former Chief Minister promises to visit the constituency every week, if he gets elected, and take up comprehensive development; the final decision is left to the high command, he says

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Congress leader Siddaramaiah being felicitated by supporters in Kolar on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Putting to rest the speculation over choice of his Assembly constituency, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah on Monday announced that he would contest from Kolar in the 2023 Assembly elections if the Congress high command allowed him to do so. He also promised to visit the constituency every week, if he gets elected, and take up comprehensive development of Kolar district.

"All the senior leaders of Kolar Congress and general public alike are insisting that I contest from Kolar Assembly constituency. I cannot reject their love. I have decided to contest from Kolar," he announced before a big gathering of Congress workers in Kolar after holding a meeting of party leaders on Monday. He, however, said that the final decision is left to the high command. "I don't have any special opportunity or privilege in the party. All of us have to seek high command's permission before contesting."

Incidentally, when he applied for party ticket late last year, he had not indicated any constituency from which he was seeking ticket. The Congress is yet to announce its candidates' list. On the reason for Mr. Siddaramaiah choosing Kolar, party sources said that a mixed voter base in Kolar comprising a big chunk of Muslim, Dalit, and Kurubas, which if consolidated, could challenge the dominant Vokkaliga votes. "He has chosen the constituency after conducting various surveys. He is looking for Vokkaliga votes through the current legislator Srinivas Gowda, who is identified with the Congress." For over a year now, speculation was rife in the political circles that Mr. Siddaramaiah, who currently represents Badami Assembly constituency in Bagalkot district, was in search of a safe seat to contest the 2023 elections.

While the former Chief Minister lost to G.T. Deve Gowda of the Janata Dal (Secular) at Chamundeshwari, he narrowly scraped through against Transport Minister B. Sriramulu by a margin of about 1,700 votes in the 2018 elections.

Congress sources said that he was looking at contesting from Koppal, Chamarajapet, and Varuna among others that were considered to be safe seat. Mr. Siddaramaiah himself had acknowledged that his followers in nine to 10 seats were inviting him to contest. The Kolar Assembly constituency, closer to the State capital, is currently being represented by Mr. Srinivas Gowda, who has been suspended from JD(S) for his alleged anti-party activities.

"I have been elected as legislator from Chamundeshwari, Varuna, and Badami in the past. Some (BJP leaders) are spreading canards that I don't have a constituency. When I said Badami was too far from Bengaluru, my followers offered to buy me a helicopter to visit them. All Congress leaders from Kolar have insisted that I should contest from Kolar. Mr. Srinivas Gowda has promised to work for my success," Mr. Siddaramaiah told the gathering.

In over four decades of political career, the veteran politician has won eight Assembly elections in Chamundeshwari, Varuna, and Badami. He could be challenged by his one-time aide and two-term Independent legislator Varthur Prakash, also a Kuruba, who is seeking BJP ticket from Kolar. Mr. Prakash is expected to divide Kuruba votes. On the other, JD(S), which has completed Pancharatna Yatra in Kolar district, has announced C.R. Srinath, an influential tomato merchant, as its candidate.

Court stays release of book on Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The City Civil and Sessions Court on Monday issued an interim stay order on the release of the book titled *Siddu Nija Kanasugalu* following a petition filed by Yathindra Siddaramaiah, Congress MLA and son of the Leader of the Opposition and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Mr. Yathindra, in his petition, contended that the book contained distorted facts, controversial issues and writings in the name of the alleged misrule during the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government.

The Karnataka Congress on Sunday had lodged a complaint at the SJ Park police station in Bengaluru, demanding that the police stop the release of the book at Town Hall in the city on Monday.

The complainant alleged that the book contains derogatory, imaginary and provocative writings on Mr. Siddaramaiah. The complainant also said that the book contains a distorted image of Mr. Siddaramaiah on its cover page. The posters of the book launch event slated on Monday showed copies of books with a picture of Mr. Siddaramaiah wearing an attire resembling the 18th century ruler of erstwhile Mysuru Kingdom Tipu Sultan, holding a sword.

The programme listed its guests as Minister for Higher Education C.N. Ashwath Narayan, Chalawadi Narayanaswamy and Rohit Chakrathirtha, former president of the Textbook Syllabus Revision Committee. However, the programme was eventually postponed indefinitely.

Priyanka Gandhi to attend Cong. women's convention in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Priyanka Gandhi

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi will take part in the Congress women members' convention 'Na Nayaki' being organised on January 16. This will be her first visit for a political event in Karnataka.

According to KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, the Congress has decided to form a separate election manifesto for women, and that the party will strive to provide women leadership roles and address their grievances in general. "Women can contribute in the making of a separate manifesto by highlighting issues before January 15. We are doing this to provide voice to women and address their issues," he said.

Mr. Shivakumar said that women who have contested in gram panchayat and cooperative societies elections will be taking part in the programme. "This convention is to empower women. We have invited national leaders to take part in the convention. Ms. Priyanka will take part and announce the promises the Congress would make for women."

When asked if Congress would be announcing any populist schemes for women, he said: "Our governance should be model for the country. It is not proper to compare financial strength of Karnataka with Delhi. We have our own history."

Meanwhile, JD(S) leaders D.M. Vishwanath from Kanakapura in Ramanagaram district and Radhakrishna of Mandya district joined the Congress on Monday.

Panchamasali seer sets January 13 deadline; to hold dharna outside CM's residence at Shiggaon

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami

Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami, seer of Lingayat Panchamasali Peetha at Kudalasangama who is leading the Panchamasali movement for 2A reservation, has set January 13 as the deadline for Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to clear up the issue.

Addressing presspersons in Hubballi on Monday, the seer said they would stage a one-day dharma in front of the Chief Minister's residence at Shiggaon in Haveri district. "And, if there is no clear announcement on issuing specific order quantifying the reservation for the community by the end of the day, the next course of agitation will be announced," he said. The seer announced that Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, MLA, would announce the next course of agitation on January 13.

The seer said that so far, Mr. Bommai had assured them of good news five times, but had not kept his word.

"Although he has extended support to the movement and assured to consider our demand positively, there is no clarity in the announcement made by Law Minister J.C. Madhuswamy. The Minister said the government had given 'in-principle' approval for providing reservation under new category. But neither is there clarity on quantum of reservation nor specific government order giving details," he said.

To a query, he said that as the Assembly election is likely to be announced in the next 90 days, the issue might be put off citing poll code of conduct. "That's why we want the government to come out clear on the issue through a Cabinet decision and subsequent gazette notification," he said.

The seer also said that the people of the community were innocent and had believed in the assurances given so far. "But if there is any further delay on issuing clear order, then the community members will campaign against all those who had opposed the reservation openly or covertly," he announced.

At work

A farmer winnows finger millet before storing it, in Bengaluru on Monday. AFP

PM to visit State twice this month

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the State twice in the coming days. While he will participate in the National Yuva Janotsava at Hubballi on January 12, he will take part in the dedication of Narayanpura Left Bank Canal to the nation on January 19.

According to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, youth from 28 States will participate in the seven-day youth festival. The Narayanapura Left Bank Canal project has been funded by both Centre and State. While there are plans to hold a Banjara samavesha on January 19, Mr. Modi's participation is not confirmed, he said.

Pennsylvania institutes invited to collaborate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Inviting Pennsylvania State Higher Education institutes to collaborate with the Department of Higher Education, Minister for Higher Education C.N. Ashwath Narayan said on Monday that the government would further expand decentralisation process in higher education.

He was speaking at a preliminary meeting with regard to Global Partnership between higher education institutes in the State and Pennsylvania State system of Higher Education (PASSHE).

Decentralisation would be expanded to all the stages of the higher education and as per the aspirations of the NEP, to provide access to quality education, collaboration would be established with well-known universities of foreign countries, he said. Initiatives such as twinning course, dual degree, skill training, and internship will be expanded, he said.

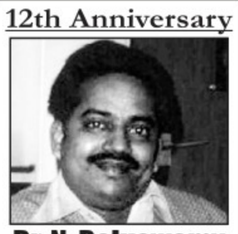
OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

IN REMEMBRANCE: Sri.T M Bashyam, who expired on 10/01/2010– Guru : 09445954111

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

12th Anniversary



Dr. N. Baluswamy

Fond memories linger every day

Deeply Missed by Family & Friends

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY
Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary,
No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/Diff. heads/TDR/2022-23/1521 **Dt. 07-01-2023**

Short term Tender Notification (Through E-portal only)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 10 works comprising of approved road and building works under 3054 Taskforce and Education scheme through e-procurement portal. Contractors are required to submit the tender before 17-01-2023 at 4.00 PM by uploading the relevant documents through e-procurement portal website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in/e-portal/index.seam by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from 09-01-2023 to 17-01-2023 at 4.00 PM. Tenders will be opened through e-proc portal on 18-01-2023 at 5.00 PM. Any changes in the notification will be published in e-procurement website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E Division, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/792/MCA/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation and Ground water Development Division, Chitradurga
NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB4/TENDER NOTIFICATION: 39/2022-23 DATE: 05-01-2023

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (ONE-TWO COVER) KW-2 & KW- 4

Item rate tender in One & two cover system as per KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible Class-I Civil and Class-I Electrical contractors registered in KPWD & Eligible Agency/ Consultancy for the following work through e-procurement portal. (Amount put to tender in Lakhs) Name of work:- Reserved for SC Category Contractors:- (1) PKG-7 Works. Tender Amount:- 49.00 Lakhs (2) PKG-8 Works Tender Amount:-49.00 Lakhs (3) PKG-9 Works Tender Amount:-21.00 Lakhs (4) PKG-14 Works Tender Amount:-21.00 Lakhs. Reserved for ST Category Contractors :- (1) PKG-10 Works Tender Amount:-42.00 Lakhs (2) PKG-15 Works Tender Amount:-14.00 Lakhs Reserved for General Category Contractors (1) PKG-1 Works Tender Amount:-70.00 Lakhs. (2) PKG-2 Works Tender Amount:-70.00 Lakhs (3) PKG-3 Works Tender Amount:-70.00 Lakhs (4) PKG-4 Works Tender Amount:-56.00 (5) PKG-5 Works Tender Amount:-56.00 (6) PKG-6 Works Tender Amount:-77.00 (7) PKG-11 Works Tender Amount:-63.00 (8) PKG-12 Works Tender Amount:-56.00 (9) PKG-13 Works Tender Amount:-63.00

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 12-01-2023 Last Date & Time for enquiries about tender 25-01-2023 upto 5.30 P.M., Last Date for submission of Tenders 27-01-2023 upto 4.00 P.M. Opening of Finanical bid Date 30-01-2023 after 04.30 P.M (If possible). Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in e-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from e-procurement help desk No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227.

DIPR/CTA/MCA/848/2022-23 **Sd/-Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Divison, Chitradurga**

A.P. moves SC seeking 'fair' division of assets, liabilities with Telangana

The Supreme Court seeks response from Telangana and Union governments; Andhra Pradesh government says despite the bifurcation on June 2, 2014, the actual division of assets and liabilities with Telangana has not commenced till date

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Centre on a petition filed by the Andhra Pradesh government seeking a "fair, equitable and expeditious division of assets and liabilities" with Telangana. A Bench led by Sanjiv Khanna also issued notice to Telangana.

The Andhra Pradesh government has argued in its petition that the assets include 245 institutions and corporations specified under the Ninth and Tenth Schedules of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

> The total value of the fixed assets of the 245 institutions to be divided is about ₹1,42,601 crores. Non-division of the assets is clearly to the benefit of Telangana since about 91% of these assets are situated in Hyderabad
>
> **K.V. VISHWANATHAN AND MAHFOOZ A. NAZKI**
> Advocates representing A.P.

"The total value of the fixed assets of the 245 institutions to be divided is about ₹1,42,601 crores. Non-division of the assets is clearly to the benefit of Telangana since about 91% of these assets are situated in Hyderabad [the capital of the erstwhile combined State] which is now in Telangana," the Andhra Pradesh government, represented by senior advocate K.V. Vishwanathan and Mahfooz A. Nazki, has submitted.

The State said despite the bifurcation on June 2, 2014, the actual division of assets and liabilities had not commenced till date.

"Despite a lapse of more than eight years, Andhra Bhavan in Delhi has not been formally bifurcated," the petition has said.

It had said Hyderabad, now a part of Telangana, was the capital of the combined State of Andhra Pradesh.

The non-apportionment of the assets had led to a multitude of issues adversely affecting and violating the fundamental and other constitutional rights of the people of the State of Andhra Pradesh, including over 1.59 lakh government employees.

Without adequate funding and actual division of assets, the functioning of institutions in Andhra Pradesh was "severely stunted", the petition has said.

Bifurcation was a wrong move, says Cong. leader

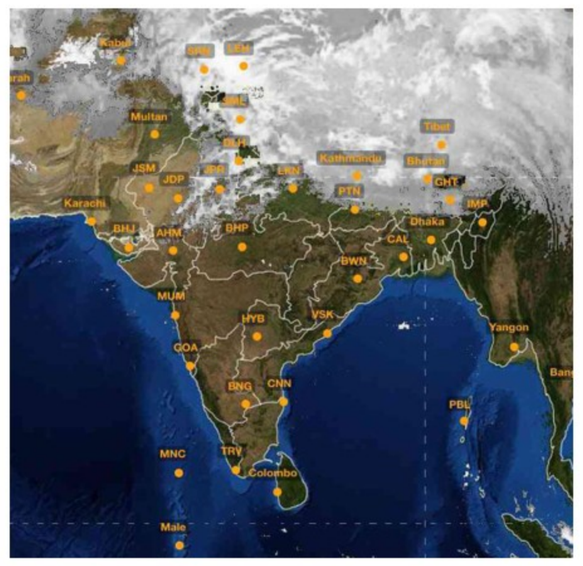
The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

Admitting that bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh by the then Congress government at the Centre was a wrong move, Congress leader Chinta Mohan said, "Despite that setback, the Congress will come back to power both at the Centre and in the State in the 2024 elections."

Addressing a press conference here, the former Union Minister said, "Bifurcation was a 'human error' and humans do make mistakes. But now, nine years have gone and things are different. We are living in a dark age and people will opt for Congress."

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Bihar, Chhattisgarh, east Madhya Pradesh, north central Maharashtra and north interior Karnataka. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Assam and Sikkim

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	25.6	12.0	Kozhikode	—	34.6	23.8
Ahmedabad	—	29.7	15.3	Kurnool	—	31.6	13.5
Aizawl	—	—	8.8	Lucknow	—	14.4	4.5
Allahabad	—	19.8	5.2	Madurai	—	31.5	22.4
Bengaluru	—	28.0	14.5	Mangaluru	—	33.7	22.0
Bhopal	—	25.1	7.2	Mumbai	—	32.1	19.4
Bhubaneswar	—	28.1	12.5	Mysuru	—	30.0	15.6
Chandigarh	—	16.9	8.5	New Delhi	—	18.6	3.8
Chennai	—	29.6	18.5	Patna	—	12.8	6.2
Coimbatore	—	30.2	21.0	Port Blair	—	30.4	23.6
Dehradun	—	23.7	6.5	Puducherry	—	30.1	18.3
Gangtok	—	16.9	7.8	Pune	—	28.4	12.2
Goa	—	33.8	19.5	Raipur	—	29.6	10.5
Guwahati	—	28.0	10.6	Ranchi	—	27.0	9.0
Hubballi	—	30.0	14.0	Shillong	—	19.6	9.0
Hyderabad	—	29.7	11.3	Shimla	—	17.2	10.3
Imphal	—	25.7	7.5	Srinagar	0.5	9.8	0.9
Jaipur	—	25.4	9.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.3	23.8
Kochi	—	31.4	23.8	Tiruchi	—	29.9	21.0
Kohima	—	19.8	6.0	Vijayawada	—	28.4	16.9
Kolkata	—	26.4	12.5	Visakhapatnam	—	29.2	18.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO 2	NO 2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.41	128	.56	...134	...134	
Bengaluru	...2	..20	.40	...188	...129	
Chennai	.25	..57	.45	...201	...127	
Delhi	.19	114	108	...482	...467	
Hyderabad	...3	..48	.45	...164	...147	
Kolkata	.12	..29	.49	...319	...180	
Lucknow	.11	..68	104	...346	...281	
Mumbai	.23	192	.20	...280	...215	
Pune	..—	..—	..—	.....—	.....—	.....—
Visakhapatnam	..—	..57	.44	...169	...205	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Chhapra, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 451 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Ravi, first T.N. Governor to skip portions of text of speech

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi skipping certain portions of the text of his customary Address to the Assembly on Monday can be called the first-of-its-kind in the State.

Neighbouring Kerala witnessed it at least thrice since January 1969. At that time, Governor V. Viswanathan declined to read out critical references to the Centre. When Chief Minister E.M.S. Namboodiripad of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) drew his attention to the skipped portion, the Governor replied he had already told him that he would not read out the portion. The southern State witnessed two more instances – Sukhdev Singh Kang in June 2001 (when A.K. Antony of the Congress was Chief Minister) and Justice P. Sathasivam (retired) in January 2018 (when Pinarayi Vijayan of the CPI-M was the Chief Minister). In 2001, the then Assembly Speaker Vakkom B. Purushothaman ruled that the printed version of the Governor's Address would hold good.

However, what is remembered more is that in March 1969, the then Governor of West Bengal Dharma Vira skipped a few paragraphs in his address to the joint session of the West Bengal legislature and Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee of the Bangla Congress headed the second United Front Ministry. This time too, the Chief Minister made a "feeble protest" and asked the Governor to read the text of the Address in full, according to a report published by *The Hindu* on March 7, 1967.

R.N Ravi

Salient features

As for Tamil Nadu, in June 2011, after Jayalalithaa became the Chief Minister, Governor Surjit Singh Barnala presented only the salient features mentioned in the text of his address while Speaker D. Jayakumar read out the Tamil version of the address in full. At that time, Barnala had cited his health as the reason for his act.

But, it was in January 2003 that a controversy erupted over the Governor's Address. After the then Governor P.S. Ramamohan Rao completed his 50-minute address in English, the National Anthem was played, marking the end of the day's business. The Tamil version was completely skipped. While the Opposition had criticised Chief Minister Jayalalithaa for the break in convention, Speaker K. Kalimuthu justified the decision by saying it was done to "save the time" of the Governor and MLAs.

As regards Monday's developments, when asked whether a motion could be passed on the day of presentation of the Governor's Address as the day's event could not be called a sitting of the Assembly, going by the position articulated in *Practice and Procedure of Parliament* by M.N. Kaul and S.L. Shakdher, an official in the Assembly secretariat concedes the point. He also observes that this was why the relaxation of Rule 17 (Observance of order during Governor's address) of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules was carried out for enabling the passage of the resolution. The official recalls that on January 23, 2017, when the then Governor Vidyasagar Rao made his address to the House in the morning, a Bill on *jallikattu* was tabled in the House later in the day and adopted too.

Under leash

Taming of the tusker: The tusker, code-named Pandalur Makhana, or PM-2, which spread terror among residents in Sulthan Bathery was captured by the Forest and Wildlife Department and shifted to the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary on Monday. Close to 150 forest personnel, veterinary doctors, tranquilliser experts, trackers and two kumki (trained) elephants were employed to capture it. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Keeping the old-world charm intact, renovated India Coffee House opens

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Coffee Board of India on Monday opened its renovated cafe, India Coffee House (ICH), located on its premises in the city. It also added a new 'sitting on the veranda and sipping the cuppa' kind of experience to it.

Your favourite dosa, idli, and vade, sandwich, cutlet, bread toast, and coffee, existing staff, and old charm of the Coffee Board cafe will continue, while an additional fast food menu has been introduced, in association with a social enterprise Mitti Cafe, to attract younger generation.

ICH, set up in 1972, has been a favourite joint for journalists, government officials, and the general public who visited the High Court, Vidhana Soudha, and other offices nearby.

India Coffee House at Ambedkar Veedhi in Bengaluru has been revamped keeping the legacy of the outlet intact. K. MURALI KUMAR

Coffee Board CEO and secretary K.G. Jagadeesha said: "Even after renovation, the classic, existing menu will remain untouched while a new menu has been introduced in collaboration Mitti Cafe."

Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, said: "The idea is not to get into the market and compete with Cafe Coffee Day, Starbucks, and other cafes. This cafe will only be a catalyst for coffee in the country."

Barista training

Coffee Board will soon start a course in professional barista training for youngsters who have completed class XII and want to start cafes. "Our aim is to promote coffee entrepreneurship as well as increase coffee consumption across the country. "The board is exploring introducing a franchisee model for entrepreneurs who can start India Coffee House outlets in their cities and towns," said Dr. Jagadeesha.

Kerala wants to strike a balance between ecology, human life

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Kerala has presented a case for exempting human habitations and areas where government, semi-government, and public and private establishments have come up within the ambit of the buffer zone.

The State has put forward its plea in an intervention application filed before the Supreme Court on Monday. It argued for striking a balance between ecology and human life to preserve ecology.

The rights of citizens in human habitations needed to be protected. There was little scope for resettling the inhabitants considering the paucity of land, the State submitted.

Kerala had earlier filed a review petition before the Supreme Court on its June 3 order that asked the States to demarcate one-km ESZ from the boundaries of protected areas. The court may consider the case on January 11.

The State showcased the case of the Mangalavanam bird sanctuary in Kochi as an example of human habitations around protected areas.

The Kerala High Court was situated within 200 metres of the sanctuary, which is located in the Kochi Corporation limit.

Row over Minister's comment on cricket ticket

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Sports Minister V. Abdurahiman seems to have dragged himself and the Left Democratic Front government under a harsh spotlight after making an "insensitive" comment on the government's decision to impose an 8% entertainment tax on tickets for the forthcoming India-Sri Lanka one-day international here on January 15.

Mr. Abdurahiman reportedly quipped that those starving and hard-pressed to afford the tax on tickets best skip the match.

His statement drew criticism on social media.

P.K. Sreemathi elected AIDWA national president

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

P.K. Sreemathi was elected national president of the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) during its 13th national conference that concluded here on Monday.

Ms. Sreemathi has become the second Keralite to helm the feeder organisation of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) after Susheela Gopalan who was its founding general secretary.

The conference also elected Mariam Dhawale and S. Punyavathi as general secretary and treasurer respectively. A 103-member central executive committee and a secretariat, comprising 34 members, were also elected at the conclusion of the four-day event.

P.K. Sreemathi, Mariam Dhawale and S. Punyavathi

The outgoing president Malini Bhattacharya has become one of the 15 vice-presidents.

Speaking after assuming the position, Ms. Sreemathi said gender equality was at stake in the country that had been struggling to protect democracy and secularism since the Narendra Modi-led NDA government assumed power in 2014. The AIDWA would work tirelessly to mobilise women to counter the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh agenda, she added.

The oldest and youngest representatives of the event were 80-year-old Vijaya Janaki from Tamil Nadu and Sadiquae, 21, from Manipur respectively.

Three CMs to attend BRS public meeting at Khammam on Jan. 18

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The leadership of Bharat Rashtra Samithi has chosen Khammam as the location for its public meeting on January 18 after going national – from TRS to BRS – to herald its arrival on the national political arena.

Sources stated that Chief Ministers of States ruled by friendly parties such as Pinarayi Vijayan (Kerala), Arvind Kejriwal (Delhi) and Bhagwant Singh Mann (Punjab) and former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav (Uttar Pradesh) and H.D. Kumaraswamy (Karnataka) and others are likely to address the public meeting, besides BRS president and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

"It won't be a show of strength but an attempt to spread message on the anti-farmer policies of the BJP-led government at the Centre as also its actions against the federal spirit of the country. It would be more of a platform to share ideas with people and to state that there is some voice in the country that is strong enough to counter the hegemonial politics", a BRS leader said.

Khammam would be first public meeting though BRS had meetings in its office at Delhi, Hyderabad.

Time to count

The Census is too vital for the government to delay it any further

The importance of the decennially conducted Census cannot be overstated. As it tallies data on several features of the Indian population, such as basic demography, literacy levels, caste status, educational levels, spoken languages, religion, marital status, occupation, and migration status among others, the Census is vital to administrative functions and planning of welfare schemes. Census data are also critical as they are used as a frame to underpin other sample surveys that are representative of the whole population. The national Census is utilised by international agencies to project the world's population as well. India has conducted the Census every 10 years since 1881; only 2021, a pandemic-affected year, was an exception as the exercise was postponed. With the deadline for freezing of boundaries further extended to June 30, 2023, the Census can effectively be conducted only some months after this event. Census enumeration is preceded by activities such as house-listing. Most States were in line to begin this in early 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. But the repeated postponement and, consequently, the undue delay in the Census's commencement will severely affect the availability of vital information on population numbers at district and other lower levels.

The pandemic has been cited as a reason for the delay. The fact that lockdowns and physical distancing norms are now a thing of the past and infection levels in the country have remained relatively low ever since the last Omicron variant wave happened in early 2022 suggests that this is no longer a valid excuse. In fact, Census data should validate the various estimates on mortality based on 'excess deaths' analyses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, it is imperative that decadal changes in India's demography related to urbanisation and migration of people across States are captured adequately. Welfare schemes such as the targeted Public Distribution System under the National Food Security Act depend on population estimates, and the government continues to rely on Census 2011, which is now clearly outdated. Inter-State disparities in population growth rates could also impinge upon debates on the prospective delimitation of electoral boundaries and apportioning of seats across States. Considering these and other imperatives for the smooth planning and implementation of administrative, welfare and statistical management for governance, the Union government must show alacrity in commencing the Census.

Glimmer of hope

SC must provide a definitive directive on the rights of same-sex couples

In a welcome move, the Supreme Court has transferred to itself petitions pending in several High Courts seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriage. A Bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices P.S. Narasimha and J.B. Pardiwala asked the Centre to file its reply to all the petitions on the issue by February 15 and has listed the case for directions on March 13. Petitioners are looking for an authoritative ruling legalising same-sex marriage, especially on the question of whether it will be brought within the ambit of the Special Marriage Act of 1954, which allows a civil marriage for couples who cannot marry under their personal law. After the transformational judgment in *K.S. Puttaswamy* (2017) upholding the right to privacy and *Navtej Johar* (2018) decriminalising homosexuality, the courts have shown the way to end uncertainty regarding the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. Petitioners have argued that denying the community the same rights as heterosexual couples violates a clutch of fundamental rights on life and liberty including Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution and Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to which India is a signatory. Article 16 says, "Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family".

The apex court will first have to contend with the response from the Centre, which has said it is opposed to same-sex marriage, stating that judicial intervention will cause "complete havoc with the delicate balance of personal laws". There are also other issues on which the LGBTQIA+ community, which already faces prejudice in society, will need clarity from the court. Under Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Special Marriage Act, parties to the marriage have to give prior notice to the Marriage Officer of the district who has to publicise the notice and call for objections. In the past, many inter-caste and inter-faith marriages faced violent opposition from those acting in the name of honour or community. Though the Allahabad High Court ruled in 2021 that people marrying under the Special Marriage Act can choose not to publicise their union, saying that mandatorily publishing a notice of the intended marriage and calling for objections violates the right to privacy, the LGBTQIA+ community will look for a definitive directive on this from the Supreme Court. Awareness campaigns are also a must to sensitise society about the rights of all individuals. By legalising same-sex marriage, India can join the 30-odd countries which allow it, and lead from the front in Asia where only Taiwan has legalised it.

The difficulties in determining age

In November 2022, over four years after the gang rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl in Kathua, the Supreme Court held that one of the accused persons, who claimed to be a juvenile at the time of the commission of the offence, be tried as an adult.

Contradictory documents

The claimed date of birth, which showed the accused to be approximately 15 years and two months old at the time of the commission of the offence, was published in the certificate issued by the local municipal committee. This came under the scanner as no such birth had taken place on that date in the hospital, as reported by the claimant's father. Moreover, the secondary school register showed a date of birth which was at variance with the claimed date and by eight months. Therefore, despite provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2014 stating that age could be determined based on school and municipality documents, the court held that these contradictory documents in this case did not inspire confidence regarding the minority status of the delinquent.

The court relied upon the medical opinion of a team of five doctors on the basis of physical, dental and radiological examination that the approximate age of the respondent was over 19 years. The court also stated that better techniques such as the 'wisdom teeth' technique and the 'epigenetic clock' technique, which measures DNA methylation levels and has a low margin of error, be introduced in India. Though the medical expert's estimate of age is only an opinion and not a statutory substitute for proof, it assumes importance because the date of birth is not recorded truthfully by all.

R.K. Vij

is a former Special Director General of Police of Chhattisgarh. Views are personal

A statement of fact about a person's date of birth has more evidentiary value than estimates based on medical opinion

NISSAR AHMAD

The most popular test for determining age is the ossification test. The extent of ossification (i.e., calcification) and the union of epiphysis in bones, particularly long bones such as radius and ulna, humerus, tibia and fibula, and femur, are helpful in estimating age. Though the variations in climatic, dietetic, hereditary and other factors affect the extent of ossification in different regions, a fairly close estimate within a margin of two years (for example, 16-18 years), allowing a margin of error of six months on either side (15.5 years or 18.5 years) may be made from puberty to the consolidation of the skeleton.

These estimates, as per *Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology for India* by J.P. Modi, are based on research studies published in various medical journals between the 1920s and 1960s. No new study seems to have been conducted since then. While a wide range such as 19-23 years is not mentioned in the book, the estimated age in the case under consideration is given as 19-23 years without mentioning the extent of ossification. If 21 years is taken as an average age, the respondent becomes older to his own elder sibling mentioned in the judgment.

The Supreme Court's ruling referred to the technique of wisdom teeth (also known as third molars). This technique was already used to estimate age in the Kathua case. Though none of the four third molars were found to have erupted, an orthopantomogram (panoramic radiograph) examination showed root formation of the upper two molars and near-complete root formation of the lower molars. The average period of eruption of 'third molars', mentioned in *Wheeler's Dental Anatomy, Physiology, and Occlusion*, is between the 17th and 21st year of age; and root formation is between the 18th and 25th year. In some rare cases, the third molars may not appear until advanced adult age; and in some cases, these may appear as early as 15 years. Though the cause of non-eruption of third molars (such as insufficient space) was not mentioned, the estimated dental age of the respondent was given as over 19 years, without providing reason or the basis for the decision. It is therefore desirable that the dentist and/or radiologist explain every aspect of how tooth eruption impacts age so that these can be scrutinised by the courts. No such scrutiny was done by any of the courts.

It is quite unlikely that a toddler of about 1.5 years at the time of registration of birth was actually over 5.5 years. However, the respondent of approximately 15 years was proved to be over 19 years. No questions, whatsoever, were asked about the methodology of medical tests done and their accuracy. Whether the respondent was mature enough to commit the heinous offence or not is besides the point.

Another recommended technique is the 'epigenetic clock' technique which measures DNA methylation levels to estimate the chronological age of the subject. It is a biological process through which methyl groups are added to DNA molecules. This primarily occurs on cytosine that precedes a guanine nucleotide (CpG sites). However, the use of this technique is yet to be explored by Indian forensic scientists.

Register births truthfully

In an analysis of 100 cases of rape (2012-14) of minor girls decided by the trial courts of Raipur, this author found that the prosecutrix could be proved as a minor only in less than one-third of the cases. Though school certificates were produced in more than three-fourth of the cases, the court admitted minority only in about one-fourth of the cases. In most cases, parents could not substantiate their statement with the hospital or any other record. Based on the ossification test, minority could be proved only in one out of seven cases. Minority became difficult to prove with increase in age. However, about 50% of the birth certificates issued under the provisions of law were admitted as credible pieces of evidence.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund report (2016), only 72% of births of children below five years were registered in India. And out of 26 million children born every year, around 10 million went unregistered. A dedicated target under Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals is to provide legal identity for all, including birth registration, by 2030. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), the share of India's institutional deliveries has increased to 88.6% in 2019-21 (NFHS-5) from 40.8% in 2005-06 (NFHS-3). It is surprising that even with the increase in institutional deliveries, proving age remains a contested issue in criminal trials.

Non-registration of birth by the 'head of the house' or hospital is punishable with a fine of up to ₹50 under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969. The draft amendment to this Act inter alia proposes to increase the fine up to ₹250 and ₹1,000 for an individual and institution, respectively. The objective is to obviously to persuade people to register births and deaths, and not severely punish those who do not do so.

Though the introduction of better medical techniques to estimate age is welcome, it would be better if every birth is registered on the basis of hospital or any other proof so that its credibility is maintained in the court of law. Ultimately, a statement of fact (about the date of birth) has more evidentiary value than the estimated age based on medical opinion, which may falter at times.

A step towards fighting corruption

In a judgment in December 2022 – *Neeraj Dutta v. State (Govt. of NCT of Delhi)* – the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court came down heavily on corruption among public servants in the country and lowered the bar for the quantum of evidence required to convict persons charged with corruption. This verdict was hailed by those who desire probity in public administration and demand deterrent penalties for criminal activities. This was not the first time that the Supreme Court was speaking on endemic corruption in our system; on many occasions in the past, the court gave equally strong expression to this scourge that afflicts our public administration. But in spite of its unequivocal stand, the extent of corruption in public life remains undiminished.

The ruling

Through its ruling, the Supreme Court debunks the myth that absolute proof of guilt alone can help convict an offender. The court has now laid down that even if prosecution witnesses turn hostile, a conviction would be in order if all the circumstantial evidence marshalled by the prosecution and produced before the court points unmistakably to the guilt of the accused. This is a great step towards ensuring integrity in public services, especially in the 'superior' services such as the Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Service.

There are two aspects to the fight against corruption: the severity of the law and its application; and the strength of public opinion that would help carry forward the campaign for a clean public life. Both are equally important if we are to rid the country of the weakest link in a burgeoning bureaucracy.

R.K. Raghavan

is a former CBI Director who teaches criminal justice and policing at Jindal Global University, Sonepat, Haryana

The latest Supreme Court judgment may not deter people from corruption, but it is praiseworthy

There is often a cry in favour of making our laws more stringent so that the wrongdoer is punished. Even law-makers and the public sometimes don't understand that deterrence works only up to a point. The demand for the death penalty for a wide range of offences is therefore misdirected. Legislators disregard the fact that the more you enhance penalties for criminal behaviour, the higher will be the quantum of proof required by the courts to be convinced of the guilt of those arraigned before them. It is probably this hard reality that persuaded the Constitutional Bench to lower the bar for the quantum of evidence required to convict persons charged with corruption.

In effect, the Supreme Court has set the standard of 'preponderance of probability', a yardstick that is usually not acceptable to sustain conviction in criminal trials. Earlier, the belief was that only conclusive proof, namely, proof that does not leave an iota of doubt in the minds of the courts, was required. This has now been diluted. The court has directed that infirmities such as non-availability of the complainant, either because he is dead or otherwise not traceable, should not stand in the way of accepting the story of the prosecution.

The same liberal application of the law of evidence will now apply to cases where prosecution witnesses turn hostile, either because of inducement or intimidation. It is well known that some powerful people are accused of 'buying' prosecution witnesses. Some lawyers have also been part of this, bringing shame to the criminal justice system and to the bar. The apex court is aware of this and believes it can no longer be a mute spectator.

Corruption everywhere

Will this judgment alter the face of corruption? At the cost of being branded a cynic, I believe that corrupt public servants will find other means of covering up their misdeeds. This is because many are willing to offer bribes to public servants, either on their own or on demand. This nexus between offender and victim has become a part of our ethos.

It is undeniable that the misdeeds of public servants are partly attributable to political corruption. The current situation in many States has become so bad that no service to which a citizen is entitled as a fundamental right can be obtained without greasing the palm of someone in the administrative or political hierarchy. Jobs are often sold at a price. Many applicants are prepared to pay without a complaint as there is acute unemployment. No approval for construction of a building or for registration of a property is possible without payment of a bribe. This situation has only worsened in many States. Several public servants involved in this racket cite illegal and rapacious demands from the political hierarchy as the reason for such bribes. Whether this is really the case or not, many corrupt officials in the administration are willing conduits and avail themselves of the opportunity to line their pockets.

The latest Supreme Court judgment may not deter people from corruption. However, that is no reason for us to give up the fight. It is here that we need enlightened opinion leaders who are not scared of taking on powerful elements in politics or in administration.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The cost of development

For years, environmentalists and residents of ecologically sensitive areas around Joshimath have been protesting against development projects ("PMO reviews situation in 'sinking' Joshimath town," Jan. 9). During such protests, an agency always comes forward to say it conducted studies which proved that it was safe to go ahead with these projects. Now that Joshimath has started to sink, will the government hold those responsible for this tragedy accountable? A body comprising scholars, environmentalists, and the affected people should examine these proposals, not alleged experts employed by the companies who handle these projects.

Hemachandra Basappa
Bengaluru

Who loses and who gains from such a tragedy? The companies whose projects have been halted will suffer losses leading to crores; the government, which is scrambling to contain it, will have to spend crores on evacuation and rehabilitation; and the residents of the town, who have been impacted, will have to leave their homes in search of new ones. The mad rush for development has not brought joy for anyone. If projects were assessed correctly, and the voices of the residents were heard, this ordeal could have been avoided.

Neeti Shrivastava
Begusarai

Upholding 'tradition'

Many of the men who play jallikattu are from poor families ("Tame, not lame," Jan. 9). Only the poor, who play the sport for pride and money, seem to bear the burden of upholding tradition and culture. Why is that we never seen sons of politicians or corporate honchos participating in jallikattu and upholding tradition?

S.S.Paul
Nadia

More diabetics

It is shocking that the number of young men with high blood glucose levels is so high in 20 out of 29 States ("Younger diabetics are on the rise in most States," Jan. 9). Today's food habits, our lack of exercise, and excess body weight may be the reasons for this. It is important to understand how to remedy this situation. The government must launch massive awareness programmes.

Jayakumar A.V.
Kochi

No trivial matter

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi's remark that Tamil Nadu be called Tamizhagam is not a trivial issue ("Governor has given an impression like a politician, says Thirumavalan," Jan. 8). The people of Tamil Nadu have sacrificed their lives for the sake of their language. He should discharge his gubernatorial duties without much ado.

A. Jainulabdeen
Chennai

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.
Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

A mountain reeling under human aggression

C.P. Rajendran

is an adjunct professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru

Many raised a red flag against a massive infrastructural project called the Char Dham road project that is being implemented in the Uttarakhand Himalaya. It is indeed turning out to be an unscientific road-construction project with catastrophic consequences for the mountain ecology. The Armed Forces and the authorities, in their enthusiasm to have a "smoother" and "faster" "all-weather" connectivity for pilgrim tourists from the plains, ignored the government's own recommended "best practice norms" to minimise the impact on the mountain ecosystems and landscapes.

In the next decade, the Government proposes to build 66 tunnels in the Uttarakhand Himalaya and 18 tunnels are already in operation. Building these subsurface structures could result in gross damage to the environment, including the concentration of pollutants from traffic exhaust compounded by a microenvironment with no sunlight and limited dispersion in such long-distance tunnels. The rail traffic may rely on electric locomotion, but constantly generated vibrations during the train movements will keep the mountain slope eternally unstable and thus, make it vulnerable to slide at the slightest trigger.

The construction of highways and railway tracks has now become a prime cause for landslides and its occurrences have doubled over the years. The increased anthropogenic activities such as road construction have made the hill slopes extremely unstable. That is why the recurring landslides have gone up in numbers in the Himalayas.

Irreversible impact on groundwater like descending water levels has been observed in the areas of tunnel construction. Erratic rainfall and ecological degradation associated with land use change for infrastructural development are already impacting mountain aquifer systems. Groundwater use in the Himalayan States differs from that in the plains, as large and contiguous aquifers do not exist in the hills.

Considered as holy, the town of Joshimath in Chamoli district, located at an altitude of 6,150 feet, is sinking rapidly due to human-induced causes. It has been recorded that the Tapovan-Vishnugad hydro project tunnel that passes just below Joshimath, which is sitting on an old glacial deposit, could be a contributing factor to this phenomenon. During the construction of the tunnel, a boring machine had perforated a water-bearing stratum on the left bank of the Alaknanda river near Shelong village, leading to discharge of 60-70 million litres per day, according to a report published in *Current Science* in 2010. This must have led to gradual depletion of pore-pressure within the sediment leading to aquifer compaction and settling of the ground. The role of pore-pressure in determining slope stability needs to be studied further in this region.

While implementing a free-way project in the Himalayas, a major question that arises is whether the mountain morphology with steep slopes and sharp gradients is easily amenable to human engineering – a caveat raised by many expert committees in the past. The steep gradients of the Uttarakhand Himalayas make it dynamically heterogeneous, in terms of climatic variables, and biodiversity. This has become amply clear from the recent series of disasters, the impact of which was exacerbated by the unsustainable human interferences in natural systems.

The Himalayan terrain demands sustainable tourism, not mass tourism. The daily average footfall last year along the Char Dham route was reported to be around 58,000. Ground reports also say that plastic waste dumped in pits and the cleaning operations resorting to open burning are highly hazardous. The 2013 Kedarnath flood was a wake-up call. The intensity of the disaster was directly proportional to the unregulated rise in tourism that led to a construction boom in unsafe zones such as the river valleys, floodplains and slopes vulnerable to landslides.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) report on the Chamoli disaster in April 2022 clearly states that "in the long term, it will be necessary to focus on finding alternative sources of energy, as the area appears to be environmentally sensitive".

A development strategy for the Himalayas should not come at the cost of the environment. It should be primarily based on the region's natural resources such as forest, water, biodiversity and ecotourism. Rather than building massive dams, focus should be on small projects that would be helpful in providing local energy supply. Most of the farmers have now abandoned their traditional practices and only less than 20% of the agricultural land in the Himalayan districts of Uttarakhand is now being farmed and the rest has become fallow land. An appropriate strategy for human well-being should use traditional knowledge, agricultural practices, construction practices and local cultural aspects.

Going by the past experiences of forming expert committees and having their recommendations ignored, it is not clear what benefit would accrue by creating another one by the government. The Joshimath episode is a warning that the Himalayan environment is at a tipping point and it may not be able to withstand another push generated by intrusive anthropogenic activities in the form of massive construction projects of townships, highways, tunnels, railway tracks and dams – an ecosystem already grappling with the consequences of global warming. And, the devotees must be in the forefront to save the "Abode of the Gods".

The Himalayan environment is at a tipping point and it may not be able to withstand another push generated by intrusive anthropogenic activities

More questions ahead of BRS than answers

For Chandrasekhar Rao, the first stop is Andhra but other issues need attention

STATE OF PLAY

B. Chandrashekhar
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After getting the approval from the Election Commission of India for changing its name from Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) to Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on December 8, 2022 and opening of its office in the national capital on December 14, the party has taken its first step forward towards its formal expansion by inducting several leaders from the numerically strong Kapu community from Andhra Pradesh, including three former bureaucrats on January 2.

President of BRS and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao announced that the party would step up its activity after the Sankranti festival, with work on setting up committees at different levels in two neighbouring States – Karnataka and Maharashtra – already underway.

"We will have party committees set up in 7-8 States to begin with as part of the long-term plans to have the party network in each of the 6.4 lakh villages across the country", Mr. Rao said, while welcoming former IAS officer Thota Chandrashekhar, former IRS officers Ravela Kishore Babu, and Chintala Parathasarathy along with several others on January 9.

Barring Ravela Kishore Babu, a Dalit and former Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Minister, others are from the sizeable Kapu community, which now wants to assert itself in the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls next year. Call it the BRS chief's strategic move but by wooing the restive Kapus, who look to actor Pawan Kalyan of the Jana Sena Party (JSP) as their undisputed leader, Mr. Rao has surely set his eyes on Andhra Pradesh.

A section of the TDP leaders from Andhra Pradesh say there is more to Mr. Rao's action of attracting Kapu leaders than what meets the eye. "Kapus have vocally expressed discontent both with the previous TDP regime and the present YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) regime that they were getting a raw deal and are not getting due share in power. It appears to be a deliberate attempt being made at the behest of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to split the strong anti-incumbency gaining mass popularity in the backdrop of a possibility of the JSP joining hands with the TDP for the next elections," says a former TDP Minister preferring anonymity till things crystalise further.

Notwithstanding such apprehensions, it remains a fact that except Mr. Babu, about 90% of those from Andhra Pradesh who joined the BRS hail from the Kapu community.

It was the Kapu vote bank that helped actor Chiranjeevi's Praja Rajyam Party (PRP) garner over 16% vote share in the 2009 elections and win 18 Assembly seats. As is the thumb rule in electoral politics, a split in the anti-incumbency vote would always benefit the ruling party.

It would also be interesting to watch as to how the BRS leadership would try to balance between the interests of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, particularly at a time when several issues pertaining to division of assets and water sharing remain unresolved.

"The interests of Telangana remain paramount for us as those of Gujarat remain for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, irrespective of his claims of equal treatment for all States. However, our objective is to show alternative solutions to problems of irrigation, including in Andhra with utilisation of water flowing waste into the sea without harming the rights of other riparian States. We plan to explain to the people how it would be possible to extend welfare and development schemes being implemented in Telangana across the country", a senior leader of BRS involved in the expansion plans said.

As Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president A. Revanth Reddy said, except for shedding the tag of Telangana, the BRS has not made any headway so far.

Mr. Rao raised many an eyebrow when he announced that the BRS would nationalise the public sector undertakings (PSUs) that are being privatised now or privatised already, if supported by people across the country. Further, he went on to promise that free power would be given to farmers across the country and Dalit Bandhu would be implemented in all States.

His political detractors, however, have lapped up the opportunity questioning his sincerity on such promises by asking why his government has failed to bring back Nizam's Sugar Factory into the PSU fold after it was privatised as a sick industry by the then TDP Government in 2002.

Municipal corporations in India are gasping for funds

The own revenue of Indian municipal corporations was less than 1% of GDP, smaller than Brazil's 7% and South Africa's 6%

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

The combined budget of all the municipal corporations in India is much smaller than that of the Central and State governments, an RBI analysis of finances of urban local bodies concludes. The study titled "Report on municipal finances" reveals how municipal bodies are increasingly dependent on fund transfers from the State and the Centre, while their revenue earning capacity is limited. Their revenue raising powers are curtailed, the study shows. Limited funds aside, about 70% of it gets spent on salaries, pensions and administrative expenses with the rest left for capital expenditure. And above all, the municipal corporations don't borrow much, leaving them gasping for funds.

Taxes earned by municipal corporations in India are grossly inadequate to meet their expenditure needs. In India, the own tax revenue of municipal corporations, comprising property tax, water tax, toll tax and other local taxes, formed 31-34% of the total revenue in the FY18-FY20 period. This share was low compared to many other countries and it also declined over time. The share of own revenue (both tax and non-tax) in the total revenue of urban local bodies in India has declined, while that of government transfers has increased as shown in **chart 1**.

Using budgetary data from 201 municipal corporations across India, the RBI report calculated their overall revenue receipts – consisting of own tax revenue, own non-tax revenue and transfers. In 2017-18 (actuals), it was estimated to be 0.61% of the GDP and according to budget estimates of 2019-20, it increased slightly to 0.72% of the GDP. This was much smaller than Brazil's 7% and South Africa's 6%.

Large variations can be observed if the municipal corporations' own tax revenue is sliced State-wise. The own tax revenue of municipal corporations as a share of the State's GDP in 2017-18 crossed the 1% mark in Delhi, Gujarat, Chandigarh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, while it was 0.1% or less in Karnataka, Goa, Assam and Sikkim. **Chart 2** plots these State-wise variations.

Another major issue with the municipal corporations' revenue raising capabilities was their dependence on property taxes. In 2017-18, the property taxes formed over 40% of the municipal corporations' own tax revenue. Despite such dominance, property tax collection in India was much lower compared to OECD countries due to undervaluation, and poor administration, the report argues.

A report published in the Chennai edition of this paper on Monday further highlights the problems plaguing property tax collection. Of the 13.27 lakh assessees in Chennai, only 6.94 lakh paid the property tax, while 6.33 lakh were yet to pay. Shortage of tax collectors has further impacted the revenues.

Chart 3 shows property tax collected in ₹ crore in FY18, FY19 and FY20 across major cities. The graph shows that most of the major cities have managed to increase their property taxes in the period, though increasing urbanisation rate and rising population density may have played a role. **Chart 4** shows the percentage of total expenditure of municipal corporations in India in 2017-18. Over 70% was spent on revenue expenditures such as salaries/wages/bonus (25%), operational and maintenance charges (16.2%), pensions (7.4%), etc., while less than 30% was capital expenditure.

The corporations are mostly dependent on transfers with their revenue raising potential being limited. Property taxes are not efficiently collected. The generated funds are mostly spent on revenue expenditure, leaving a much smaller pie for capacity building.

Not vocal for local governance

The charts are sourced from the maiden report on municipal finances published last year. The RBI has also vowed to make it a regular annual publication

Chart 1 | The share of own revenue (both tax and non-tax) in the total revenue of urban local bodies (ULBs) in India

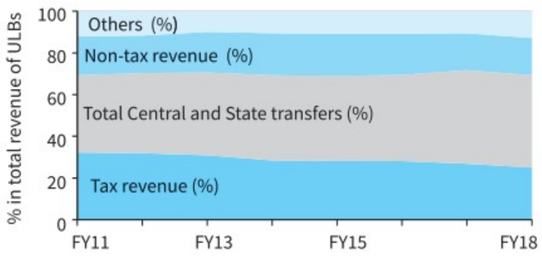


Chart 2 | The chart shows municipal corporations' own tax revenue in 2017-18 as a % of the State GDP

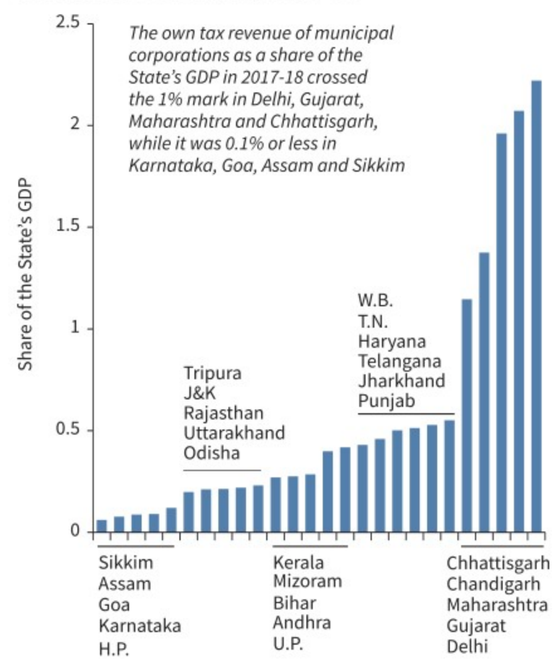


Chart 3 | The chart shows property tax collected in ₹ crore in FY18, FY19 and FY20 across major cities/corporations

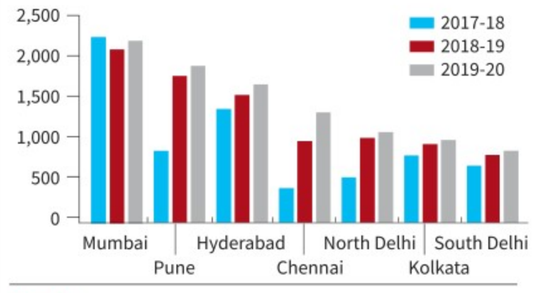
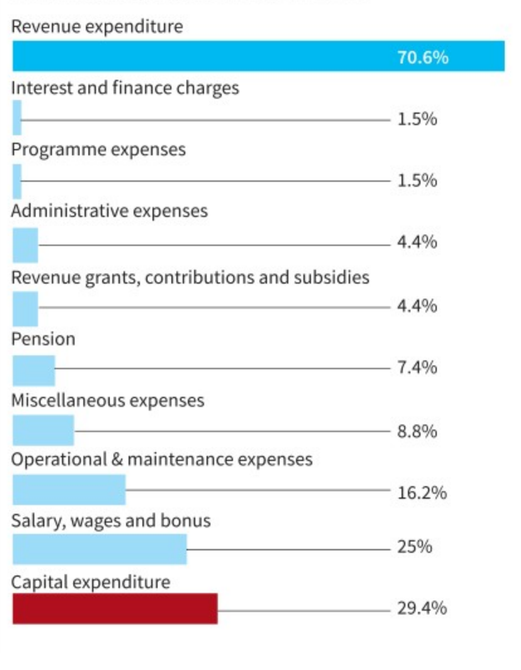


Chart 4 | The chart shows the percentage of total expenditure of municipal corporations in India in 2017-18



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 10, 1973

One crore as Alms to beggars per day

Ranchi: Indians spend Rs. 1.1 crore per day on beggars. This amount includes cash as well as the value of the foodstuff that beggars receive as alms. This had been revealed in a survey on Indian beggars – their habits, conjugal life and last history. According to the survey, there are about 5.5 million beggars in India. Of them, 1,15,500 are below 14 years and 12,00,000 are above 50 years. About 1,50,000 are lepers, 85,000 are eunuchs, 8,00,000 blind, 3,00,000 deaf-mutes and 1,00,000 are mentally deranged. On an average, an Indian beggar earns Rs. 2 per day. According to a sample survey conducted on some big cities, sub-urban towns and a few villagers, a beggar on an average earns Rs. 0.75 paise in cash and Rs. 1.25 paise in kind. But though the average comes to Rs. 2 only, individual earnings of beggars vary from place to place and time to time. The average earnings of a Calcutta or Madras beggar comes to Rs. 8 a day. If he is blind or disabled or crippled, his earning cross Rs. 20 a day (in cash and kind). Beggars can broadly be categorised in four different categories: child beggars, disabled (typical) beggars (including lepers, blind), professional beggars, and the "story-telling" beggars (who relate stories of personal tragedy to appeal to human emotions).

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 10, 1923

War debts

Washington: Cordiality marked the first formal conference of the commission for funding British debt to America. Mr. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, appreciated the British courtesy in unprecedentedly dispatching the Chancellor of the Exchequer on such a mission. Mr. Baldwin declared that the British did not seek favours, but a square deal which would secure repayment to America of the last cent of her wartime credits. Britain did not intend to depart from the principle of making the present generation pay as far as possible for the war, but payment of the debt to America in gold was impossible. On the contrary, the conference was faced with a situation in which the creditor nation was unwilling to permit liquidation through direct delivery of goods and was unwilling to see sale of products to the debtor nation.

From Page One

Ravi walks out of House as CM objects...

Mr. Stalin said portions "inserted" or "omitted" by the Governor in his oral address should not be part of the records. The paragraph number 65 skipped by Mr. Ravi read: "Following the principles and ideals of stalwarts like Thanthai Periyar, Annal Ambedkar, Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, Perarignar Anna and Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, this government has been delivering the much-acclaimed Dravidian Model of governance to its people." However, elsewhere in his speech, he mentioned "Kalaignar", denoting former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi. He also made certain extempore remarks.

The Governor did not read a reference to the management of law and order situation that said, "Tamil Nadu continues to be a haven of peace and is attracting numerous foreign investments and is becoming a forerunner in all sectors".

Against Assembly tradition, says Stalin

Describing the act of the Governor as "very sad and against the tradition of the Assembly", Mr. Stalin pointed out that he omitted portions of "the speech prepared by the State government and approved by him [Mr. Ravi]".

"We conducted ourselves in a manner to accord full respect to the Governor who came to the Assembly to deliver his address as per the Constitution. But he acted not only against our ideology but also against the government by not reading the speech prepared by the government and approved by him," Mr. Stalin said while moving a resolution seeking to relax Assembly Rule 17 to retain in the House records only the printed speech in English and its Tamil version read by the Speaker.

Congress, Left parties fault Governor

"The Governor is clearly acting at the behest of those who appointed him," Mr. Ramesh tweeted.

Communist Party of India (CPI) leader D. Raja said the post of the Governor must be abolished to "end the interference of the Union government".

CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury told *The Hindu* that the Governor's actions were "illegal and unconstitutional". "The Governor is mandated by the Constitution to read out the statement prepared by the government," he said.

Centre told to comply with OROP order by March 15

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday gave the Union government time till March 15 to comply with its 2022 judgment upholding the One Rank, One Pension (OROP) scheme for the armed forces after the government said that it had already tabulated the pension for 25 lakh ex-service personnel.

A Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud adjourned the hearing. Attorney-General R. Venkataramani appeared for the Centre, while senior advocate Huzefa Ahmedi and advocate Balaji Srinivasan represented the petitioner, Indian Ex-Servicemen Movement.

"Attorney-General states that the tabulation for nearly 25 lakh defence pensioners has been completed by the Controller General of Defence Accounts, Allahabad. The tabulation shall now be processed by the Controller of Defence Accounts and will be considered by the Ministry of Defence. Time for completing the entire exercise in compliance with the judgment of this court is extended until March 15," the court recorded in its order. In its earlier judgment, the court had found no Constitutional infirmity in the OROP principle as defined in the government's communication of November 7, 2015.

DGCA raps AI for not reporting two more in-flight incidents

'Lackadaisical' airline gets second show-cause notice in five days over another urination incident; asked to form internal complaints committee

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India chief executive officer Campbell Wilson met DGCA Director-General Arun Kumar on Monday after the civil aviation regulator issued a show-cause notice to the airline for its failure to respond to a mid-flight safety incident when a passenger urinated on a woman co-traveller on November 26.

The airline also received another rap for two other incidents on a flight 10 days later which were not reported to the regulator and involved another passenger relieving himself on an unoccupied seat.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued a second show-cause notice to Air India over a span of five days.

The latest reprimand is over two events on a December 6 flight from Paris to New Delhi during which a passenger was caught smoking in the lavatory. The passenger was also in an inebriated condition and refused to listen to the crew's instructions. On the same flight, another passenger allegedly relieved himself on a seat which was vacant because its woman occupant had briefly gone to the toilet.

Policemen escort Shankar Mishra, who was arrested for urinating on a co-traveller, outside a court in New Delhi on Saturday. AP

'Delayed response'

Noting that the airline had failed to report the incident until January 5, the DGCA said "the response of the airline has been lackadaisical and delayed".

"DGCA has issued show-cause notice to Accountable Manager of M/s Air India as to why enforcement action should not be taken against them for dereliction of their regulatory obligations," the regulator said in a statement about the airline's failure to comply with rules laid down by it for dealing with unruly passengers, which includes the requirement of reporting the incident to the DGCA within 12 hours after an aircraft lands. The airline has been given two weeks to respond.

The DGCA also asked the airline to constitute an internal complaints committee to inquire into the two incidents of December 6 which can lead to the imposition of a lifetime ban on a passenger. It also said that until the committee arrives at a decision, the airline should also consider banning such passengers for up to 30 days.

The DGCA had last week issued a similar show-cause notice for a "systemic failure" in responding to a situation where Shankar Mishra urinated on a woman traveller in an inebriated state.

The airline failed to hand him over to the CISF or report the matter to the regulator and the police.

'Conversion a serious issue, should not be given political colour'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said the Tamil Nadu government *prima facie* was giving "political colour" to a case concerning the "very serious" issue of religious conversions through force, deceit, and allurement, which was a concern for the entire nation. The court asked Attorney-General R. Venkataramani for his assistance, considering "the seriousness and importance" of the case.

The oral observation came from a Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and C.T. Ravikumar when senior advocate P. Wilson, for Tamil Nadu, said the petitioner, advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, was a "BJP spokesperson," "facing a case of sedition" and the case was "politically motivated."

Mr. Wilson said the issue of religious conversion was a State Subject under List 2 Entry 1 of the Constitution. There were no illegal religious conversions in Tamil Nadu as alleged by the petitioner. A law on religious conversions of 2002 was subsequently repealed in Tamil Nadu.

"Leave this matter to the legislature. There is no threat of conversion in our State. This is a politically motivated litigation. He [Mr. Upadhyay] has made Tamil Nadu, the State government, a party," Mr. Wilson objected.

"Do not try to bring political colour. *Prima facie* today the State government wants to bring political colour. We are concerned with the people... You may have so many reasons to be agitated like this but do it outside. We are considering a particular issue and not concerned with the 'A', 'B', or 'C' State. If it is happening in your State, it is bad. If it is not happening, then good. We are not targeting only one State," Justice Shah addressed Mr. Wilson.

The court said the alleged antecedents of Mr. Upadhyay made "no difference."

"When a case is brought to the court, the court will decide... Restrict yourselves to the point under consideration," Justice Shah said.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta agreed that the issue of illegal conversions was of "national interest".

Case renamed

The Bench took note of senior advocate Sanjay Hegde's suggestion, backed by Mr. Venkataramani, to rename the case, saying this could be done in "contentious PILs". The court renamed the case as 'In re: On the issue of religious conversions'. Senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for Mr. Upadhyay, submitted there was no specific provision in the IPC on illegal conversions.

Nation will protect its diaspora, says Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi launches a commemorative stamp at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas event in Indore on Monday. ANI

India will nurture and protect its diaspora spread across the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday. Inaugurating the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention in Indore, Mr. Modi urged members of the diaspora to become representatives of "India's heritage". He termed every overseas Indian "Bharatvanshi", and promised the government's support for his or her well-being.

"In the last eight years, India has tried to strengthen its diaspora. It is India's commitment today that wherever you are, the country is for your interests and expectations," he said, adding that the "lives, the struggle and the contributions" of the "Pravasi Bharatiyas" in their respective countries should be chronicled through "universities and research institutions".

16 arrested, 34 kg contraband seized

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

An international drug trafficking syndicate has been unearthed with the arrest of 16 alleged members and seizure of over 34 kg of heroin and other narcotic substances during an operation spearheaded by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

The group, with links in Afghanistan and Pakistan, had set up heroin processing laboratories in Punjab. Four of the arrested people are also allegedly connected to the seizure of about 300 kg of drugs, mostly heroin, from Shaheen Bagh (Delhi) and Muzaffarnagar in April 2022. The key accused persons ran nightclubs and restaurants and had other front businesses, including liquor vends, rice mill and ghee trade.

The breakthrough came after the NCB Chandigarh unit seized 20.33 kg of heroin from the possession of one Sandeep Singh last year. Subsequent searches led to the detection of two clandestine heroin processing units run by Afghan nationals in Ludhiana, said NCB (Northern Range) Deputy Director-General Gyaneshwar Singh. The NCB probe revealed that accused Akshay Kumar Chhabra was the kingpin of the racket. He allegedly imported raw heroin and morphine from Afghanistan and got the stuff prepared in Ludhiana. Amandeep Chania facilitated smuggling of crude heroin – concealed in tomato paste tins – through Mundra Port.

CRPF to provide arms training to civilians in Poonch and Rajouri districts of Jammu

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Centre has deputed the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to give arms training to village defence committees (VDC) in the Jammu region, following the twin terror strikes in the Dangri area of Rajouri on January 1 and 2 in which seven civilians, including two children, were killed. Members of the VDCs are civilians.

The VDCs are making a comeback after almost three decades. They were first constituted in 1995 in 10 districts of Jammu when members of the Hindu community were targeted by terrorists. They were disbanded later amid allegations of crimes, including abduction and rape.

In March 2022, the Union Home Ministry decided to re-establish the VDCs and renamed them as Village Defence Guards (VDG). Since the programme could not take off then, the Ministry has decided to implement it with a rigour after the Rajouri killings.

> The move is a short-term measure. It has a limited purpose to increase the visibility of armed people to act as a deterrence in wake of the targeted killings
> **A SENIOR OFFICIAL**

A senior government official said it was a "short-term measure." "It has a limited purpose to increase the visibility of armed people in border villages to act as a deterrence in wake of the targeted killings of minorities," the official said.

Another official said the module of training and the weapons to be provided to the VDGs were yet to be decided, but they will be upgraded versions than the .303 rifles that the VDGs were armed with earlier. The CRPF has been asked to train civilians only in Rajouri and Poonch districts.

"Not all members of the committee will be armed with .303 rifles. It will be a mix of .303 rifles and upgraded versions such as Self Loading Rifles. We are not expecting the villagers to take on well-trained foreign terrorists with these weapons but it can definitely act as a deterrence," the official said.

The official said the programme will be run in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Police who will select the candidates who are to be trained.

HC says arrest of ICICI Bank ex-CEO, husband 'illegal', orders release

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday ordered the release of ICICI Bank's former chief executive officer and managing director Chanda Kochhar and her husband Deepak Kochhar. The court said their arrest in the ICICI Bank fraud case was "illegal" .

A Division Bench of Justices Revati Mohitedere and P.K. Chavan held that the arrest was not in accordance with Section 41A (notice of appearance before police officer) of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The Bench ordered the release of Ms. Kochhar from the Byculla Jail and Mr. Kochhar from the Arthur Road Jail on a cash bond of ₹1 lakh.

The couple were arrested by the CBI on December 23, 2022, and Videocon group promoter Venugopal Dhoot was arrested on December 26. He is also in Arthur Road Jail.

The court was hearing a petition filed by the Kochhars seeking immediate release and for quashing the FIR against them.

The CBI has alleged that ICICI Bank under the leadership of Ms. Kochhar sanctioned a credit of ₹3,250 crore to companies owned by the Videocon Group which are in direct violation to the Banking Regulation Act, guidelines by the Reserve Bank of India and the credit policies of banks.

The CBI, which registered an FIR in January 2019, accused Ms. Kochhar of cheating, criminal conspiracy and causing loss to the bank by sanctioning loans to Videocon in contravention of the rules and policies of the ICICI bank. These loans given to Videocon have turned into NPAs.

Rajnath Singh

'Make in India initiative in defence is not isolationist'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The national efforts towards 'Make in India' in defence manufacturing are neither isolationist nor are they just meant for India alone, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday. On India's G-20 Presidency, he said the endeavour was to build consensus within the G-20, and shape the agenda for a "more secure, prosperous, sustainable and just world."

"It is our endeavour to transcend the relation of buyer and seller to a co-development and co-production model. When we are exporting our defence equipment to our friendly nations," Mr. Singh said addressing the Ambassadors' Conference ahead of the Aero India expo next month in Bengaluru.

He said, "We envisage the G-20 presidency as an occasion to showcase India to the world, the 3 Ds: Development, Democracy and Diversity."

Mr. Singh said India had been working towards enhancing its defence manufacturing capabilities, particularly in the areas of drones, cybertech, AI, radars and other equipment.

"Our defence exports have grown by eight times in last five years and now India is exporting to more than 75 countries," he remarked.

Usury destroying lives in Gujarat; police plan action as families left high and dry

SPECIAL

Mahesh Langa
AHMEDABAD

Ramesh Koli, 35, a farm labourer in Surendranagar, Gujarat, had borrowed ₹30,000 from a moneylender in July 2022. In the following two months, he repaid the amount, plus ₹50,000 as interest. But the moneylender demanded ₹30,000 more, threatening him with dire consequences. With the help of his village *sarpanch* (head), Mr. Koli reduced the amount and paid ₹15,000 more. "It was horrible," says Mr. Koli. "No one should borrow from moneylenders."

Now, the Gujarat police have launched a special drive against mushrooming private moneylenders. They have organised Statewide camps in districts, in an attempt to address the harassment. "We have issued a strict instruction to every city and district police regarding action against moneylenders," said Gujarat Director-General of Police Ashish Bhatia. He added that the police are inviting people to file complaints if they had faced any harassment from moneylenders.

There have been suicides, rapes, and violence,

ILLUSTRATION: SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

all because private moneylenders – some registered, some plying without licences – collect illegal sums of money.

The amounts far exceed the State-mandated maximum interest rate of 12% per annum from a borrower who has provided security, and 15% per annum from those who don't give a security. There are often huge penalties on late payment and daily interest that compounds. In Rajkot, a 37-year-old woman was allegedly repeatedly raped after her husband failed to repay ₹50,000 he had borrowed from a moneylender.

In another incident in Ahmedabad, a 45-year-old took his life in September 2022. He had been harassed by a moneylender who had lent him ₹50,000 and recovered ₹5 lakh. In the FIR registered after the suicide, his wife accused three persons who, she alleged, drove her husband to suicide, after they forced him to pay ₹18 lakh more.

"They are blood suckers," said Surat Police Commissioner Ajay Tomar. "In Surat, we filed 34 cases in the first week of January, arrested 31 accused, while three are absconding," he said.

In Gujarat, the licence for moneylending is issued by the local registrar who also oversees cooperative societies. According to Mr. Bhatia, the police's role comes only after a complaint is filed. "We want to encourage people to file complaints," he added.

(For assistance to overcome suicidal thoughts, dial 011-4076 9002 (10 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.).

Development with a human face needed, says Mamata

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said her government believed in development with a human face.

"Without human face, a government cannot work. Our social security are the main thrust," she told delegates at a G-20 meeting here. Ms. Banerjee said her government was providing free foodgrains to the population of the State as well as free scholarship to all girl children in the State. "Education is free, health is free and scholarship is free," she said.

She said the State GDP had grown four times under her government, which had also created 12 million jobs. She said the government's focus had been on women empowerment and on the small and medium enterprise sector.

The G-20 meeting had sessions on role of digital public infrastructure in financial inclusion.

Opposition parties flay EC's remote voting plan

It will discourage free and fair elections, parties say at parliamentary panel meeting; they question poll body's logic that the new system for migrant workers will increase voting percentage

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Questions raised: The Election Commission has called an all-party meeting on January 16 for consultations. FILE PHOTO

The Opposition parties on Monday grilled officials of the Election Commission on the proposal to introduce a remote voting facility for migrant workers, saying it will discourage free and fair elections.

At a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice, headed by BJP MP Sushil Modi, the parties questioned the EC's logic that the new system would increase voting percentage.

The meeting was called to discuss the "status of common electoral roll" for conducting elections, false declarations during the filing of nominations and establishing parity between the minimum age of voting and contesting elections to Parliament, State legislatures and local bodies.

However, according to sources, a significant part of the meeting was spent to discuss the move to introduce multi-constituency remote electronic machines for migrant workers. The EC has called an all-party meeting on January 16 for consultations.

Members of the Congress, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), the Trinamool Congress and the Shiv Sena expressed serious concerns about the system.

A DMK member said the proposed voting mechanism would go against the Basic Structure of the Constitution and discourage free and fair elections. "Nominees from political parties posted at every booth act as watchdogs guarding against any violations. Allowing [remote] polls will deny opportunity to regional parties to send in their nominees to booths," a member said.

A Congress member said the new system would be detrimental, especially for the smaller parties who might not be able to muster personnel beyond their respective States.

"The EC's justification for bringing the system is flawed. They claim that it will increase voting percentage; now South Mumbai Lok Sabha seat traditionally reports lowest voting percentage, how many migrants really live there?" a member said.

The parties also expressed reservations about the EC's plan to bring in a common electoral roll for elections to the Lok Sabha, Assemblies and local bodies.

Russian flight makes emergency landing after bomb scare

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

A Goa police official says security has been beefed up in and around the Dabolim airport as a precaution

A Moscow-Goa international flight carrying 236 passengers and an eight-member crew made an emergency landing at the Jamnagar airport in Gujarat on Monday night following a bomb threat.

According to Inspector-General of Police Ashok Yadav, the aircraft was evacuated safely and is being checked by local authorities, along with the police and the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad.

Search on

"The plane going from Moscow to Goa was forced to make an emergency landing at Jamnagar airport due to a bomb threat. After landing, all 236 passengers and crew members were deboarded safely. Police, BDDS and local authorities are now searching the entire plane," Mr. Yadav told presspersons.

In a media statement, the Russian Embassy said it was alerted by the Indian authorities to the alleged bomb scare on the Azur Air flight. The aircraft made an emergency landing at the Jamnagar Indian Air Force Base. Everyone on board is safe. The authorities are conducting a thorough inspection of the aircraft.

Security has been beefed up in and around the Dabolim airport as a precaution, a Goa Police official said. "The international flight from Moscow which was supposed to land at the Dabolim airport was diverted to Jamnagar due to a bomb scare," Deputy Superintendent of Police (Vasco) Salim Sheikh told presspersons.

Amit Mitra flags rejection of loans to weavers

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Former West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra wrote to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman raising the issue of the rejection of 40,000 bank loan applications of weavers and artisans in the State.

He said that it had become evident at the State Level Bankers' Committee the cause of huge rejections by banks was a notification by the Union Government which made mandatory "a variety of requirements including PAN card etc., for even these micro weavers and artisans. Unfortunately, RBI too has brought out a similar stringent notification".

"Therefore, I humbly urge you to persuade both RBI and MSME Department of Government of India to rectify the notifications and allow self certification by micro weavers and artisans for bank loan applications," he said in the letter.

BJP targets AAP over Punjab reshuffle

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday termed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal the "most corrupt" in the country over the induction of Balbir Singh as a Minister in the Punjab government.

BJP leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa said the AAP used to speak a lot about changing politics in the country, claiming that if voted to power, it would not allow anyone with criminal antecedents in its governments.

Mr. Singh, he noted, had been convicted in a case of assault on a woman and he is currently out on bail. Mr. Singh was sworn-in after the resignation of Fauja Singh Sarari.

"This is the state of affairs in a party which had come to power in Punjab on the promise of ending corruption," he said.

Congress, CPI(M) likely to reach an alliance for Tripura election

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) and the Congress are close to an electoral understanding for the Tripura Assembly election.

On Sunday, the Congress's Tripura in-charge, Ajoy Kumar, met CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury. Any announcement is, however, expected only at the end of the CPI(M)'s State committee meeting on Tuesday.

No conversation has taken place at this point on seat sharing. According to sources, the two parties will form a smaller committee, drawing representatives from both sides, to decide on seat division.

"The core idea of this alliance is that there should be no division of the anti-BJP votes. The anti-incumbency against the BJP government has been growing and change of the Chief Minister midway through the term cannot reverse it," a Congress leader said.

In the 2018 election, the BJP got 36 seats, cornering nearly 44% of votes. The CPI(M), which ruled the State for 20 years, got only 16 seats, though it received 42% of votes. The Congress could not get even one seat and got less than 2% votes.

The Congress has been in talks with Pradyot Manikya Debbarman, chairperson of the TIPRA Motha party.

State govt.'s power to form committee on UCC cannot *per se* be challenged: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday held that a State government's authority under the Constitution to form a committee to examine the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) cannot *per se* be challenged.

A Bench found no merit in the argument by petitioner-in-person Anoop Baranwal that only the Centre could set up a committee for the implementation of the UCC.

The petition had challenged the Uttarakhand government's move to set up a committee on the UCC. The Uttarakhand committee o is headed by former SC Justice Ranjana P. Desai.

"Article 162 of the Constitution indicates that the executive power of a State extends to matters with respect to which the Legislature of the State has power to make laws. In view of the provisions of Entry 5 of the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule, the constitution of a Committee *per se* cannot be challenged as *ultra vires*," the Supreme Court said.

Entry 5 of the Concurrent List deals with "marriage and divorce; infants and minors; adoption; wills, intestacy and succession; joint family and partition; all matters in respect of which parties in judicial proceedings were immediately before the commencement of this Constitution subject to their personal law".

The court's refusal to interfere in the case of Uttarakhand and its recorded observations in a judicial order that State government did indeed have the power to take steps towards implementing the UCC would prove decisive and encourage other States to take similar measures.

Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society
Government of Andhra Pradesh
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
Selection of Reputed Companies/ Agency(s) for Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of Seventeen (17) Common Facility Integrated Production Centers in Andhra Pradesh on Lease, Operate, Transfer Model for a Block Period of 15 Years

Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society (APFPS) through this Request for Proposal (RFP) is inviting Bids from interested agency(s) for **Operation & Maintenance (O&M)** of below mentioned Seventeen (17) Common facility integrated production centers in Andhra Pradesh on Lease, Operate, Transfer Model for a Block Period of 15 Years as per the terms and conditions laid down in the RFP.

1) **Common Facility Integrated Production Center for Mango Jelly Processing Unit at Peddapuram, Kakinada, East Godavari District.**
2) **Common Facility Integrated Production Center for Jaggery Processing Unit at Kondupalem (V), Anakapalle Taluka, Visakhapatnam District.**
3) **Common Facility Integrated Production Center for Millets in 13 locations across A.P.**
4) **Common Facility Integrated Production Center for Groundnut Processing Unit at Chigicherla (V), Dharmavaram (M), Ananthapur District.**
5) **Common Facility Integrated Production Center for Coffee Processing Pattaballuguda (V), Araku, Visakhapatnam District.**

Interested Agencies are requested to access the RFP documents individually at the below mentioned link and send the bids on or before the due date as mentioned in the respective document(s).

The RFP document along with the Project information can be accessed from https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in from 10-01-2023
For queries, please write to: fps-ap@nic.in, apfps@yahoo.com
Contact: Mr. Bharat Kumar Thota, Ph: 6309501007/ Mr. Rahul Reddy, Ph: 9634506369;
Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, APFPS

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.
TENDER NOTICE : CE/PROJ-I/ SE/PD&C/ O.T No. 2/2022-23

TANGEDCO invites E-Tender for "Consultancy / Transaction Advisory for preparation of necessary documents including Financial Model, Request for Qualification (RFQ), Request for Proposal (RFP) with Draft concession agreement and assist TANGEDCO with entire tender process and the evaluation of tenders till execution of concession agreement with concessionaire for developing Kodayar, Manalar Aliyar Pumped storage Hydro Power projects under PPP mode in Tamil Nadu in compliance with prevailing relevant laws and guidelines of statutory authorities - Due date & Time for submission of e-tender **29.01.2023 upto 5:30 pm.** Download of Tender Specification: **13.01.2023/ 2.30 pm to 29.01.2023 5.30 pm.** The tender specification can be downloaded from TANGEDCO website **www.tangedco.gov.in,** from Tamil Nadu Government Website i.e **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and from National Informatics Centre Website **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** at free of cost.
DIPR/176/Tender/2023 "சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்." **Chief Engineer/ Projects-I/TANGEDCO**

माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड, राजस्थान, अजमेर
E-Tender Notice providing services of Live CCTV Cameras Surveillance system

बोर्ड परीक्षा **2023** के लिए परीक्षा केन्द्रों एवं उत्तर पुस्तिका संग्रहण केन्द्रों पर **Turnkey Basis** पर **Live CCTV Cameras Surveillance system** हेतु खुली निविदा जिसकी अनुमानित लागत **2.5** करोड रूपये है, दिनांक **30.01.2023** अपरान्ह **3.00** बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र विस्तृत विवरण बोर्ड वेबसाईट **http://rajeduboard.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं राज्य सरकार उपापन पोर्टल **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** डाउनलोड कर प्राप्त किये जा सकते है।
UBN NO:SEB2223SL0B00043
सचिव

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE
Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi P.O. Bengaluru-560 072. W*ww.isec.ac.in*

Advertisement No. A/1/2023 **Date: 10.01.2023**

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FROM THE ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING BACKLOG FACULTY POSTS

Sl.No.	Designation	No.of Post	Centre	Shortfall		
				SC	ST	OBC
1	Assistant Professor	4	Economics	1	-	1
			Political Science	-	-	1
			Education	-	1	-

The detailed Advertisement and procedure for applying for the above posts is available at our Website: **www.isec.ac.in**.
Last date of receipt of applications: **31st January, 2023.**
ISEC-22327 **Registrar**

IN THE HIGH COURT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH SHIMLA
In the matter of M/s. Indian Technomac Company Limited (In Liquidation)
Company Petition No. 13 of 2014
SALE NOTICE

In pursuance of the orders of the Hon'ble High Court, Himachal Pradesh, dated 02.08.2019 & 08.08.2019 and subsequent orders passed on this behalf dated 15/09/2020 &24-12-2020 ; in Company Petition.No.13/2014, sealed tenders cum auction are invited from the intending purchasers by the undersigned for the purchase of movable, immovable and current assets of M/s. Indian Technomac Company Limited (In Liquidation) described hereunder on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** scheduled to be auctioned on dated **18th January,2023.**The particulars of the properties are given here under in the table:

Table-1

Lot No.	Name and Description of Lot Property	Location of the property	Reserve Price [in Crores]	EMD @ 10% of Reserve Price [In Crores]	Specific Condition Bidding
1.	Land (189-01-16) Bighas	M/s Indian Technomac Company Ltd. Address:Village Jagatpur, PO Misserawala, Paonta Sahib, Himachal Pradesh herein after shall be called as "Factory Premises " for the purpose of brevity in this notice and brochure enclosed and al proceedings connected therewith.	71,85,42,000/-	7,18,54,200/-	Open to all bidders
2.	Other Land 46-13-00 Bighas	A.) HB No. 156, Rampur Majri [46-13-00 Bighas	11,19,60,000/-	1,11,96,000/-	
3.	Other Land 30-00-00 Bighas	B.) HB No. 157, Bharapur [30-00-00 Bighas, Paonta Sahib	7,20,00,000/-	72,00,000/-	
A.	**Landed Property (1+2+3)**	**265-14-16 Bighas Biswas Biswansi**	**90,25,02,000/-**	**9,02,50,200/-**	
4.	Fixed Building and Shed	" Factory Premises"	27,14,56,000/-	2,71,45,600/-	
B.	**Fixed Building and Sheds**		**27,14,56,000/-**	**2,71,45,600/-**	
5.	Vehicles	" Factory Premises"	97,19,635/-	9,71,964/-	
6.	All Moveable Assets (Plant & machinery)	" Factory Premises"	46,74,99,600/-	4,67,49,960/-	
C.	**Moveable Assets, Plant & Machinery value (5+6)**	**"Factory Premises"**	**47,72,19,235/-**	**4,77,21,924/-**	
	Total (A+B+C) Total Immovable + Moveable assets value		**1,65,11,77,235/-**	**16,51,17,724/-**	

The schedule of auction cum tender process will be conducted as per Table-2 appended below

Table-2
Detail of Events

Assets Lots Sale Order	1	2	3	4
S.NO.	Particular of Event	Date of Event	Time of Event	Contact Offices
1.	Availability of Tender	**28.12.2022**	10.00 am to 5.00 pm	Office of Joint Commissioner, South Enforcement Zone, Parwanoo at HIG-10A, Sector-1A, Parwanoo, Dist. Solan, HP – 173220, Tel. 01792-232645, email : jcste.sez@gmail.com
2.	Closing of Tender	**17.01.2023**	5.00 pm	
3.	Date of Inspection of Property	**03-01-2023 to 09-01-2023**	11.00 am to 4.00 pm	
4.	Last Date of Submission of Tender-cum-Auction Form	**17-01-2023**	5.00 pm	Office of Joint Commissioner, South Enforcement Zone, Parwanoo at HIG-10A, Sector-1A, Parwanoo, Dist. Solan, HP – 173220, Tel. 01792-232645, email : jcste.sez@gmail.com
5.	Opening of Tender-cum-Auction Form	**18-01-2023**	11.00 am to 3.00 pm	Company Premises M/sIndian Technomac Company Limited M/s Indian Technomac Company Ltd. Address: Village Jagatpur, P.O.Misserawala,PaontaSahib,Himachal Pradesh

Sealed Tenders accompanied by the Earnest Money Deposit by way of Demand Draft/Pay order favoring to "**Authorised Officer State Taxes and Excise,JCSTE Parwanoo, Distt. Solan,Himachal Pradesh-173220.** " as per schedule Table No-2.
Sealed Tenders will be opened by the **Auction cum Tender Committee** on **18th January,2023** in the presence of the Tenderers who remain present in the O/o **Company Premises M/s.IndianTechnomac Company Limited M/s Indian Technomac Company Ltd. Address: Village Jagatpur,POMisserawala,PaontaSahib,Himachal Pradesh with the liberty to raise their bid by open auction also.** The highest of the Bid in the Auction-cum-Tender will be accepted as the highest bid by the committee. For more details,the Detailed Application Form(DAF) containing all Terms & Conditions for the Sale of Assets by Tenders-cum-Auction can be obtained from the office of the undersigned. Tender Form alongwith Brochure can be obtained by paying Rs. 10,000/- (non-refundable) for Tender.
Encl: Detailed Application Form [DAF] a/w Terms & Conditions of Sale.
19December,2022
Parwanoo
G.D.Thakur
[Authorized Officer]
Joint Commissioner, STE-SEZ at Parwanoo
Distt Solan Himachal Pradesh-173220
Email jcste.sez@mailhptax.gov.in, gdthakur786@mailhptax.gov.in
Tel No- 01792-232645
HP/0676/2022-2023

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
BIRRD Trust Hospital, Tirupati. **e- TENDER NOTICE**

BIRRD Trust Hospital, TTD, Tirupati is inviting e-Tenders from the eligible Manufacturers/ Firms/ Authorized Distributors for the work "Rate Contract for Supply of Arthroplasty (Imported / Indian) Implants (USFDA Certificate mandatory) on Consignment Case to Case Basis to BIRRD Trust Hospital, TTD, Tirupati for a period of Two Years NIT Roc.No TTD-104021(31)/93/ 2022-BIRRD & Tender ID No.: 582744 in AP eProc. Portal. Date of upload of Tender on **10-01-2023** and bid closing date: **30-01-2023.** For details log on to Web site **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/** & **http://www.tirumala.org/ Contact No: 0877-2264025.**
Roc.No.PR4/13950/Adv.No.342/PRO/2023, Dated:09-01-2023 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : SE/PHC/MPM/80,81,84/2022-23, JJM Kuttipuram and adjoining GPs Construction of Well, RWPM, OHSR, Sump, CWPM, Transformer Room and allied works - CARWSS to Moorkanad and adjoining GPs Enhancing distribution system and providing FHTCs to Puzhakkattiri GP and allied works, **EMD :** Rs. 200000,500000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 11025,16540, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 31-01-2023 03:00 pm, **Phone :** 04832974871.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer,
PH Circle, Malappuram
KWA-JB-GL-6-1385-2022-23

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF IMAGING TECHNOLOGY (C-DIT)
Thiruvananthapuram-27
Ph: 0471-2380910/912

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-tender is invited for the Supply of Survey Equipment

For details and online submission of bid please visit
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Last date of submission of bids: **18.01.2023, 03.00 PM.**
Tender id. 2022_CDIT_545134_1
05.01.2023 Registrar, C-DIT

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF IMAGING TECHNOLOGY (C-DIT)
Thiruvananthapuram-27
Ph: 0471-2380910/912

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-tender is invited for the Supply of Testing Equipment - Civil

For details and online submission of bid please visit
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Last date of submission of bids: **16.01.2023, 03.00 PM.**
Tender id. 2022_CDIT_544141_1
28.12.2022 Registrar, C-DIT

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF IMAGING TECHNOLOGY (C-DIT)
Thiruvananthapuram-27
Ph: 0471-2380910/912

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-tender is invited for the Supply of Electrical Testing Equipment

For details and online submission of bid please visit
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Last date of submission of bids: **18.01.2023, 03.00 PM.**
Tender id. 2022_CDIT_545155_1
05.01.2023 Registrar, C-DIT

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
PALAR BASIN CIRCLE, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI - 600 005.

Form of Contract : Lumpsum - Item Rate Contract
Short Term Tender Notice (Two Cover System)
Short Term Tender Notice No.19 PBC / 2022-23 / Dt.09.01.2023

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Superintending Engineer, WRD, Palar Basin Circle, Chennai-5 invites tender from eligible tenderers for the work of **"Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) Scheme under Har Khet Ko Pani Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana - Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Uthiramerur Tank in Uthiramerur Block of Kancheepuram District"** at his office upto **3.00 P.M** on **03.02.2023** in sealed covers. The tenders will be opened at **3.30 P.M** at his chamber on the same day.

Other information such as name of work, details of Work, Value, EMD, Cost of tender schedule, etc., will be available in the Government website **"www.tenders.tn.gov.in"**. Any Corrections or Modifications will be published on web site only.

Superintending Engineer, WRD.,
Palar Basin Circle, Chennai-5.
DIPR/ 170 /TENDER/2023

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

AURANGABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
AURANGABAD
Executive Engineer (Electrical Section)

Office Address : Aurangabad Municipal Corporation, Executive Engineer (Electrical) Section, Town Hall, Aurangabad 431001
Email : contact@aurangabadmahapalika.org
Contact No. 0240-2333536 - 40

	Name of work	Bid Submission End Date
1	G-20 Summit- Providing Permanent Illumination aesthetic Lighting and allied Electrical Works at Various locations in Aurnagabad City. Estimate Amount 40294892/-	Date 12.01.2023 Time 4.00 PM

Detailed information is available on website www.mahatenders.gov.in of the Municipal Corporation.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Electrical)
Aurangabad Municipal Corporation.

INBRIEF

Snag-hit Vistara plane returns to Delhi; DGCA starts probe

A Vistara flight to Bhubaneswar returned to Delhi on Monday after the A320 jet experienced a snag on its hydraulic system. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is investigating the incident. Sources said the aircraft, which had nearly 140 passengers onboard, landed safely at the Delhi airport. In a statement, a Vistara spokesperson said a minor snag was detected shortly after take-off. PTI

SC reserves for verdict plea to make chargesheets public

The Supreme Court on Monday reserved for judgment a plea to publish chargesheets filed by the police and investigative agencies in the public domain, saying they are "public documents". A Bench led by Justice M.R. Shah heard advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for journalist Saurav Das, who argued that citizens have a right to proactive disclosure of chargesheets as right to know is a fundamental right emanating from free speech and expression.

Over 3.12 lakh Indian Railways posts lying vacant, says Ministry

The highest number of vacant posts are in the northern zone; 50% of posts vacant in the central zone are in the safety category; recruitment process for filling 35,281 vacancies completed, Ministry says in the Rajya Sabha

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Badly in need: Operating and maintenance staff positions are among those left vacant. FILE PHOTO

The Indian Railways is reeling under a crushing staff shortage with 3.12 lakh non-gazetted posts lying vacant across 18 zones in the country as on December 1, 2022.

This was disclosed by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology, in response to a starred question in the Rajya Sabha.

The highest number of posts is vacant in the northern zone (38,754), followed by the western (30,476), eastern (30,141), and central (28,650) zones.

Last November, the National Railway Mazdoor Union (NRMU) of the Central Railway staged a protest at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in front of the Divisional Railway Manager's office after duty hours to express discontent over the vacancies.

50% in safety category

In the Central Railway, of the 28,650 vacant posts, almost 50% of the vacancies (14,203) are in the safety category that primarily include operation and maintenance staff, such as inspectors of various kinds, drivers, train examiners, shunters and several others. Non-gazetted posts include a range of employment categories, from engineers and technicians to clerks, stationmasters, ticket collectors and more. The inability to fill posts has led to employees working overtime.

A 29-year-old employee working in the Central Railway ticket booking office in Mumbai, said, "I have been working double shifts for up to 16 hours at a stretch, because we don't have staff to relieve us. I have not been able to take leave to study, because of staff shortage."

The employee is preparing for his law exams and hopes for an inter-departmental transfer to the legal section, once he passes.

The shortage of staff has led to numerous ticket booking windows being rendered non-operational, leading to long queues and congestion. "This has also led to outsourcing of ticketing services. The Railways employs private parties who earn ₹3 on every ₹100 worth of tickets sold outside the ticket booking window. The job should have been done by the railway staff in the first place," an NRMU employee said.

Continuous process

According to the official response tabled by the Railway Ministry in Parliament, "Occurrence and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process and the vacancies are filled by way of promotion and also through placement of indents with recruiting agencies as per operational requirements." The response further stated, "Recruitment process for filling up 35,281 direct recruitment vacancies...for Non-Technical Popular Categories has been completed."

Centre adopts new standards for digital TV receivers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has published new country-specific standards for the manufacturing of digital television receivers with built-in satellite tuners, for Universal Serial Bus (USB) Type C receptacles, plug and cables and for video surveillance systems. The measure is towards meeting international standards in the area of electronics, the Ministry said.

Under the new standard for televisions, the digital television receivers will now come with in-built satellite tuners.

TVs built keeping this standard will enable reception of free-to-air TV and radio channels of Doordarshan (DD) and All India Radio (AIR) just by connecting a dish antenna.

This, according to the Ministry, can save the cost of purchasing set-top boxes for viewing various paid and free channels.

TV channels told not to air disturbing, gory footage

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry on Monday cautioned television channels against airing disturbing footage and distressing images, stating that it was a violation of the Programme Code.

The Ministry asked them not to report incidents of accidents, deaths, and violence, including crimes against women, children and elderly, in manners that grossly compromised on "good taste and decency". The advisory has been issued after several instances of lack of discretion by television channels were noticed by the Ministry.

Stating that the manner of reporting such incidents was distasteful and distressing for the audience, the Ministry said those reports could also have an adverse psychological impact on children.

"There is also a crucial issue of invasion of privacy which could be potentially maligning and defamatory," it said.

All damaged buildings in Joshimath to be razed; cracks on 678 structures

Ishita Mishra
JOSHIMATH

In dire straits: Large cracks on walls and roads on the way to Vishnupuram in Joshimath. V.V. KRISHNAN

Uttarakhand Chief Secretary S.S. Sandhu on Monday ordered the immediate demolition of buildings that have developed cracks and are badly damaged in the alleged land subsidence in Joshimath town.

As per the data of district administration, 678 houses and other establishments across the town are damaged. A total of 81 families have been rehabilitated by the district administration since January 4.

"To prevent erosion, we need to start work on a war-footing. For this, we should plan to demolish the establishments that are damaged badly so that they don't harm the other nearby buildings," Mr. Sandhu said at a review meeting at the District Secretariat in Dehradun.

The orders by the government were not welcomed by the residents of the town. "I was born in this house. My great grandfather has established a temple of goddess here. How can I just see it get demolished?" Prem Singh Tamta, whose house was categorised in the 'danger' category, asked on Sunday.

Navin Juyal, former member of the Supreme Court High Power Committee set up for assessment of environmental and sociological aspects of the Char Dham all-weather road, was of the opinion that the Tapovan-Vishnugad Hydropower Project and the Helang bypass by the Border Road Organisation should be shelved immediately.

He attributed these projects as the prime reason for the present danger.

SC may hear today plea on 'land-sinking'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday allowed a petition concerning the Joshimath "land-sinking" incident to be mentioned for early hearing on January 10, provided it is listed before a Bench. The petition wants the incident to be declared a national disaster while blaming large-scale industrialisation as a reason.

'Declare land subsidence a national calamity'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday urged the Narendra Modi government to announce the land subsidence in Joshimath of Uttarakhand as a national calamity, declare the entire zone as a natural disaster zone and immediately stop all developmental projects.

The party said work should be halted until experts and environmentalists did an on-ground assessment and submitted their report. Describing the land subsidence as a man-made disaster, the Congress sought enhanced compensation for those whose homes had been damaged, preservation of the old Joshimath town and development of a new town to rehabilitate the affected residents.

"The whole country is worried and is with the people of Joshimath, where unbridled development has created cracks in Uttarakhand's 'Devsthal'... the Joshimath tragedy should be declared a national calamity," party president Mallikarjun Kharge said.

Knowledge should be made freely available: scientist Ron Vale at TNQ lecture

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Expert opinions: Scientist Ron Vale delivering a lecture during the TNQ distinguished lectures in Mumbai on Monday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

"We should make knowledge freely available," said Ron Vale, Vice-President, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Maryland, United States, and Featured Speaker of the TNQ Distinguished Lectures in the Life Sciences-2023, here on Monday.

Addressing an audience of hundreds of young researchers at the Homi Bhabha Auditorium, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Dr. Vale described his journey as a scientist in the quest to uncover the secrets of molecular motors.

Molecular motor proteins drive muscle contraction, the beating of cilia and flagella – structures that move a cell forward or move substances along the surface of the cell.

Dr. Vale, 63, discovered the motor protein kinesin, one of the three major classes of molecular motors (the other two being dynein and myosin), and his lab has over the years elucidated how these motors convert chemical energy into movement.

As co-founder of a biotechnology firm, Cytokinetics Inc, he has helped develop candidate drugs that use molecular motors to improve the beating of the heart, in instances, where the system is awry.

To budding scientists

Dr. Vale, in his hour-long lecture, said that scientific discoveries were littered with missteps and failures towards deciphering the secrets of how nature worked and it was important that prospective scientists be aware about these, along with the triumph and joy of discovering something new.

He said that along with science, he had an interest in scientific outreach. Concerned that aspirant scientists and researchers had limited access to talks by leading scientists and engaging lectures, Dr. Vale described his experiences with ibiology and explorebiology.org, online repositories of science videos, and talks by scientists on the nature of scientific exploration.

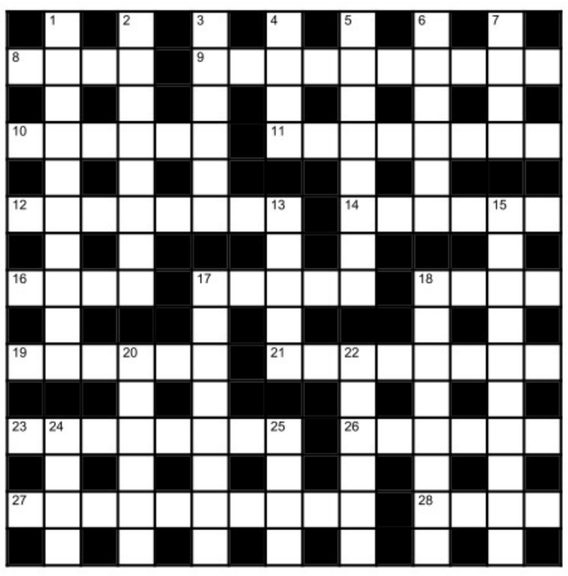
Dr. Vale is scheduled to lecture at Kolkata and Bengaluru this week as part of the TNQ lecture series.

TH CROSSWORD + 13759

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Disappeared... carrying fruit! (4)
9 Put off ten wearing exciting nighties around university (10)
10 Girl wanders in thickets (6)
11 Discontinue baker (5,3)
12 Association of readers reserve golfing equipment (4,4)
14 Lure ward with frozen water (6)
16 Prison No.18 (4)
17 Delta, Echo, Foxtrot... Frustrated? (3,2)
18 After giving up deal, made love wildly in shift (4)
19 Engineer and the French trapped extra-terrestrial insect (6)
21 Unbiased parties steal urn by mistake (8)
23 Spinning ballet dancer losing belt in place where one might find a date (8)
26 Ancient ocean destroying the sty (6)
27 Got off due to mind getting agitated around beginning of safari (10)
28 Stone from ring with friend (4)

Down

1 Insect goes around rocking blotter and drink container (4,6)
2 Inciter agitating over pork (8)
3 A ship, perhaps, remains same even after losing 1/3 from its front and back (6)
4 Flying creatures fly back and pierce with sharp instrument (4)
5 Keep Eden trimmed to leg height (4-4)
6 Trip king and alien after sixth month, in short (6)
7 Horrible snafu in absence of navy and defenders of America's sky, in short (1,1,1,1)
13 President's quirky in bed (5)
15 Equestrian soldier from California upsets army van carrying head of logistics (10)
17 Find glue smeared in artillery piece (5,3)
18 Spoil Roman hat in long run (8)
20 Units of energy produced by the Royal Meteorological Society? (6)
22 Nudity can be dirty (6)
24 A Chinese president's turning point (4)
25 Tax judge? (4)

SUDOKU

	6		8	1				
1		4	5					
	8				7		6	
		2					3	7
5								4
6	9					8		
	5		2				4	
					4	3		9
				8	3		7	

No.SS5675 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

	F		C		U		M		F		F		P	
L	A	M	A		S	W	A	M	I		I	V	A	N
	D		R		E		R		L		Z		I	
G	O	W	N	E	D		B	L	I	Z	Z	A	R	D
			A		T		L		P		L			
M	O	N	G	O	O	S	E		I	D	E	A	L	S
	V		E				S		N				O	
C	O	N	S	U	M	E		P	O	K	E	M	O	N
	L				A		A				X		S	
J	O	R	D	A	N		S	A	L	V	A	G	E	S
			E		I		S		A		M			
S	P	I	L	L	T	H	E		T	W	I	T	C	H
	A		U		O		G		E		N		H	
D	R	U	G		B	E	A	N	S		E	L	A	N
	T		E		A		I		T		D		T	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	2	4	8	9	5	3	7
3	5	4	7	1	6	8	9	2
9	7	8	2	3	5	1	6	4
8	2	1	6	9	4	7	5	3
6	9	7	3	5	8	2	4	1
4	3	5	1	7	2	6	8	9
5	8	3	9	2	7	4	1	6
2	1	6	8	4	3	9	7	5
7	4	9	5	6	1	3	2	8

FAITH

Importance of laughter

Tholkappiyar says laughter, tears, disgust, wonder, fear, pride, anger, and joy are distinguishing characteristics of human beings.. He perhaps placed laughter at the top of the list because of its importance in our lives, said Malayaman in a discourse. A person who lacks good conduct may be clever enough to hide his true nature from others. But in his heart of hearts, he knows the kind of man he is. The five elements of which his body is composed will laugh at him, says Thiruvalluvar.

Imagine a battlefield. An elephant charges at a soldier. He picks up a javelin, and throws it at the elephant. The javelin hits the elephant, and it retreats. But soon another comes to attack him. He has no weapons to attack this elephant. He suddenly realises that he has been hit by a spear, which he has not removed from his body. So, he pulls out the spear, and he laughs because he now has a weapon to attack the elephant. This laughter is born of his valour. Thiruvalluvar describes such a scene.

There is a lazy man in a village, who does not cultivate his land. But he complains that he is poor. In such a case, Mother Earth will laugh at him, says Thiruvalluvar. This is mocking laughter. A girl and a young man fall in love. But she is too shy to look him in the face. She looks at him, when she thinks he isn't looking at her. She then smiles to herself. This scene too is presented in a verse in Thirukkural.

Thiruvalluvar says that when a drunkard walks unsteadily and speaks indistinctly, people will laugh at him derisively. Tholkappiyar says that laughter is caused by mockery, childishness, ignorance and credulity.

TEHRAN

Iran sentences three more persons to death over Amini protests

AFP

Iran has sentenced to death three more persons accused of killing members of the security forces during protests triggered by Mahsa Amini's death, the judiciary said. The latest sentences, which can be appealed, bring to 17 the total number of people condemned to death in connection with nearly four months of protests. AFP

MOSCOW

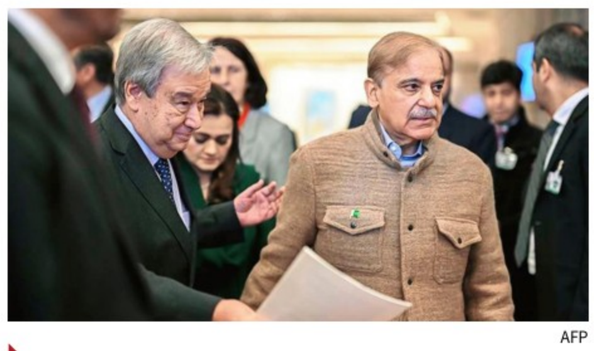
Russia captured east Ukraine village near Bakhmut: separatists

REUTERS

Russian-backed separatist forces in the eastern Donetsk region of Ukraine said they had seized a village near the key city of Bakhmut that Moscow has been trying to capture for months. The village of Bakhmutse lies northeast of Bakhmut, a city that used to have a population of 70,000 and is now an epicentre of fighting. AFP

GENEVA

UN conference seeks aid for Pakistan after devastating floods



AFP

A UN conference on Monday drummed up funds and other support to help Pakistan cope with the fallout of last summer's devastating flooding that killed more than 1,700 people in the immediate aftermath. Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and UN Secretary-General António Guterres attended in-person. AP

TAIPEI

China holds large-scale joint strike exercises aimed at Taiwan

AP

The Chinese military held large-scale joint combat strike drills starting on Sunday, sending war planes and Navy vessels toward Taiwan, both the Chinese and Taiwanese Defence Ministries said. The exercises have continued into Monday, Taiwan said, monitoring Chinese warplanes and Navy vessels on its missile systems. AP

In aftermath of riot, Brazil vows to protect democracy

Bolsonaro says peaceful demonstrations are part of democracy but invasion of government buildings are 'exceptions to the rule'. Police detain 1,200 people outside a pro-Bolsonaro camp

Associated Press
RIO DE JANEIRO

Utter chaos: A police officer falls from horse during clashes with supporters of Jair Bolsonaro in Brasilia on Sunday. AFP

Brazilian authorities vowed on Monday to protect democracy and punish thousands of supporters of ex-President Jair Bolsonaro who stormed and trashed the nation's highest seats of power in chaos with striking similarities to the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

The protesters swarmed into Congress, the Supreme Court and presidential palace on Sunday. Many have said they want the Brazilian Army to restore the far-right Bolsonaro to power and oust the newly inaugurated leftist Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Police crackdown

The police broke down a pro-Bolsonaro encampment outside a military building on Monday and detained some 1,200 people there, the Justice Ministry's press office told The Associated Press.

Lula and the heads of the Supreme Court, Senate and Lower House also signed a letter on Monday denouncing acts of terrorism and vandalism and saying they were taking legal measures.

In a news conference from Sao Paulo state, Lula read a freshly signed decree for the federal government to assume control of security in the federal district. He said that the so-called "fascist fanatics," as well as those who financed their activities, must be punished, and also accused Mr. Bolsonaro of encouraging their uprising.

Mr. Bolsonaro repudiated the President's accusation late on Sunday. Writing on Twitter, he said peaceful protest is part of democracy, but vandalism and invasion of public buildings are "exceptions to the rule."

Justice Minister Flávio Dino told reporters the police have begun tracking those who paid for the buses that transported protesters to the capital. At the news conference late on Sunday, Brazil's Minister of Institutional Relations said the buildings would be inspected for evidence including fingerprints and images to hold people to account.

"They will not succeed in destroying Brazilian democracy. We need to say that fully, with all firmness and conviction," Mr. Dino said.

Monday's arrests came in addition to the 300 held Sunday while caught in the act. But the police were noticeably slow to react – even after the arrival of more than 100 buses – leading many to ponder whether authorities had either simply ignored numerous warnings, underestimated the protesters' strength, or been somehow complicit.

Public prosecutors in the capital said local security forces had at very least been negligent. A supreme court justice temporarily suspended the regional governor.

U.S. President Joe Biden, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau jointly said on Monday that "Canada, Mexico, and the United States condemn the January 8 attacks on Brazil's democracy and on the peaceful transfer of power."

Unlike the 2021 attack in the U.S., few officials would have been working in the top government buildings on a Sunday. And videos showed limited presence of the capital's military police.

China posts 'wolf warrior' official to Border Affairs Department

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian, who garnered a popular following within China and a more controversial reputation abroad for often hawkish public statements on foreign policy matters, has been posted as the second-ranked official in the country's Border Affairs Department.

The Foreign Ministry's website on Monday no longer listed Mr. Zhao as a spokesperson, and showed him as the first-ranked of the three Deputy Director Generals of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, which deals with border issues including the India-China boundary dispute. The head of the department, Hong Liang, is regularly involved in consultations with Indian diplomats through the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China border affairs, which has met more frequently in the wake of the 2020 Line of Actual Control (LAC) crisis triggered by the Chinese military's transgressions. Mr. Zhao's appointment was widely seen by observers as a lateral move at best. Some analysts suggested he had effectively been sidelined, as while he still holds the same rank as DDG, which he also held in the Information Department, he has now moved to a far less high-profile post.

Zhao Lijian

Out of spotlight

The move will certainly shift Mr. Zhao out of the public spotlight, which he came to enjoy, described in one magazine profile as "the man behind China's aggressive new voice".

That image won him fans in China. On Weibo, the Twitter equivalent in China, he was among the most followed Chinese officials, with 7.7 million followers. He was also among the most followed Chinese officials on Twitter – a website banned in China but one Mr. Zhao actively used, posting more than 72,000 tweets – with 1.7 million followers. It was his Twitter presence that caused most controversy, including tweets where he suggested the COVID-19 pandemic originated in an American lab and shared a mock-up image appearing to show an Australian soldier about to cut the throat of an Afghan child.

Mr. Zhao, who in his new capacity will be dealing more closely with India, specifically on the border issue, spent an earlier stint in Islamabad, during which he went by the name of "Muhammad Zhao", and as spokesperson, he often spoke glowingly of China-Pakistan relations.

India, Britain sign and exchange letters for Young Professionals Scheme

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

It will permit up to 3,000 of their degree-holding citizens to live and work in each other's countries

The governments of India and the U.K. marked Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on January 9 by kicking off the Young Professionals Scheme, which will permit up to 3,000 of their degree-holding citizens aged between 18 and 30 to live and work in each other's countries for a period of two years.

The launch of the scheme, which was conceived as part of an India-U.K. Migration and Mobility MoU signed in May 2021, was announced in November at the G20 summit in Bali, where U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking at the High Commission of India in London, after a ceremony where letters were signed and exchanged between the two countries, High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami, said the scheme, which will run for a period of three years initially, would hopefully be "up and running in March".

However, he indicated there were still some processes that had to be completed before a March launch. "But that is conditional on everything actually been put in place. So we don't want to make a formal announcement of a date until we are a 100% certain."

Exchange visas

Young Indians and Britons would be able to travel to each other's countries either for work or study, or visit, for two years. The scheme allows for exchange visas for up to 3,000 individuals per year.

"It isn't even necessary for you to have a job in hand, when you do this [apply for the visa]," Mr. Doraiswami said. Successful candidates could look for a job, educational or cultural opportunity once they arrived in their host country. Or they could just visit.

Permanent Under Secretary at the U.K. Home Office Matthew Rycroft represented the U.K at the signing ceremony.

The signing of the agreement belies more complex issues around the movement of persons across borders. Part of the Migration and Mobility agreement of 2021 seeks to address the return of illegal migrants to their home countries.

A 'free trade' agreement between the two countries, which the governments were hoping to conclude before Deepavali last year, was complicated in part due to the U.K. Home Secretary Suella Braverman saying Indians were the largest group of visa-overstayers in Britain and the agreement with India had "not necessarily worked very well".

The High Commission of India in London responded by saying it had acted on every case of visa overstaying referred to it by the U.K. authorities and that the government was awaiting "demonstrable progress" on some of the U.K.'s commitments under the agreement. The government is also seeking greater ease in the movement of skilled professionals and students from India to the U.K. as part of the trade discussions, the sixth round of which took place in New Delhi in December.

Ben-Gvir bans the flying of Palestinian flag in public

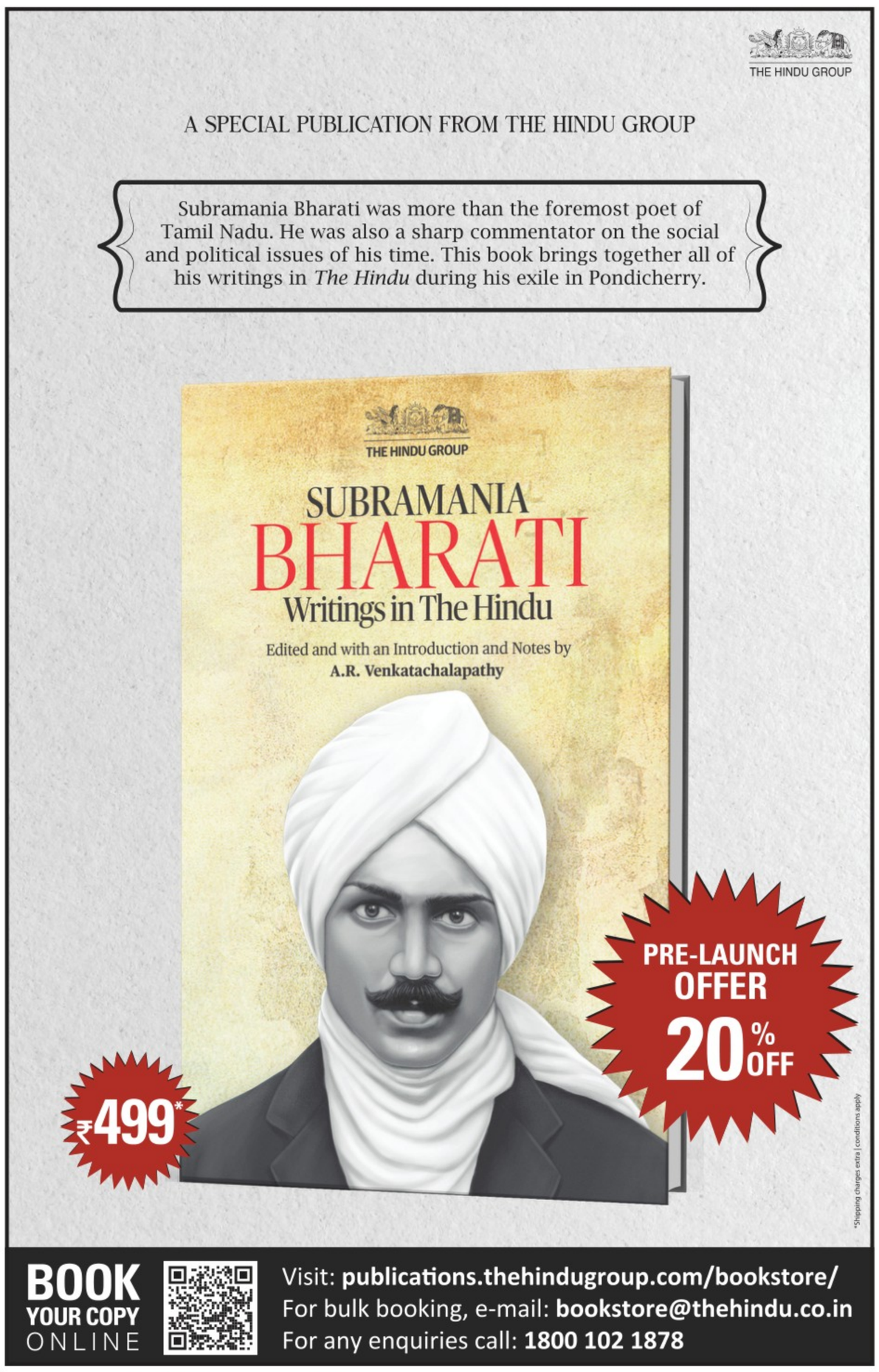
Associated Press
TEL AVIV

Israel's National Security Minister has ordered the police to ban Palestinian flags from public places in the latest crackdown by the country's new hardline government. Itamar Ben-Gvir's order follows a series of other punitive steps against the Palestinians since taking office late last month.

Ozone layer healing, hole will mend by 2066, says UN

Associated Press
DENVER

Earth's protective ozone layer is slowly but noticeably healing at a pace that would fully mend the hole over Antarctica in about 43 years, a new UN report says. "In the upper stratosphere and in the ozone hole we see things getting better," said Paul Newman, co-chair of the scientific assessment that is held once-every-four-years.



INBRIEF

Rupee gains 31 paise on weak dollar overseas, firm equities

The rupee strengthened 31 paise to 82.35 against the dollar on Monday, supported by a weaker greenback overseas and a firm trend in domestic equities. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against six currencies, slid 0.24%. Dilip Parmar, research analyst, HDFC Securities, said the rupee gained in line with Asian currencies and touched a month's high. PTI

HDFC Capital raises $376 mn for affordable housing fund

HDFC Capital, the real estate private equity arm of HDFC Ltd., said it had successfully closed Scheme 2 of the HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Fund - 3 (H-CARE 3), raising $376 million. H-CARE 3 Scheme 2, combined with H-CARE 3 Scheme 1 and HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Funds - 1 & 2, forms a $3.1-billion funding platform that had been rated as "one of the world's largest private finance platforms focussed on development of affordable housing," HDFC said in a statement.

HDFC, IOB raise lending rates by up to 25 basis points

HDFC Bank and India Overseas Bank (IOB) on Monday raised the marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) by up to 25 basis points, making loans linked to the benchmark more expensive. According to HDFC Bank website, the overnight MCLR is now 8.5% from the earlier 8.3%, an increase of 20 basis points, while the MCLR for one month is 8.55% up from 8.3%, a rise of 25 basis points. IOB, on the other hand, raised the benchmark rate across all tenures by 5 basis points, the lender said in a filing. PTI

TCS Q3 net profit rises 11% on cloud business, forex gains

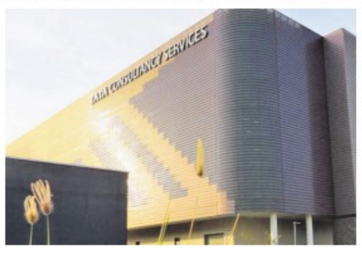
Revenue expands 19.1% while operating margin narrows; growth driven by market share gains through vendor consolidation, and continued momentum in North America and U.K, says MD

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) said third quarter net profit surged 11% year-on-year to ₹10,846 crore, on the back of strong performance in its cloud business, market share gain and currency support.

Revenue grew 19.1% to ₹58,229 crore. Operating margin narrowed 50 basis points to 24.5%. The board announced a dividend of ₹75 per share including special dividend of ₹67.

Western strength
Revenue growth was led by North America and U.K. regions, which grew 15.4% each in constant currency



- Attrition dipped after six quarters of uptick
- Net headcount slid by 2,197 from the previous quarter
- Firm announced dividend of ₹75 per share including special dividend of ₹67

The firm said its employee count reduced by 2,197 on a net basis to 6,13,974 as on December 31, its first dip since the onset of the pandemic in the first quarter of fiscal year 2021. In the quarter ended September, TCS added 9,840 employees. The company has since then slowed the pace of hiring amid fears of an economic recession in major western markets. Attrition dipped to 21.3% from 21.5%, after six quarters of uptick.

"Our strong growth in a seasonally weak quarter [was] driven by cloud services, market share gains through vendor consolidation, and continued momentum in North America and U.K.," said CEO and MD Rajesh Gopinathan.

(With Reuters inputs)

'Utilities asked to import 6% of coal needs for 9 months'

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India's Power Ministry has asked utilities to import 6% of their coal requirement until September, according to a letter seen by Reuters, warning that domestic supplies could be curtailed if import targets are not met.

India expects domestic coal supply of 392 million tonnes during the six months to the end of September and expects availability to fall short of demand by 24 million tonnes, according to the letter sent to heads of energy departments of States and MDs of all utilities.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	%CHANGE
Sensex	60,747	1.41
US Dollar	82.35	0.37
Gold	56,380	1.31
Brent oil	80.48	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3855.30	31.05
Adani Ports	816.65	10.55
Apollo Hosp	4407.70	20.25
Asian Paints	2984.15	5.75
Axis Bank	958.75	18.85
Bajaj Auto	3620.75	-21.50
Bajaj Finserv	1414.00	-16.35
Bajaj Finance	5993.35	12.95
Bharti Airtel	819.40	23.40
BPCL	346.75	2.05
Britannia Ind	4364.30	5.25
Cipla	1087.45	11.10
Coal India	214.95	0.70
Divis Lab	3459.50	24.60
Dr Reddys Lab	4334.00	62.25
Eicher Motors	3262.55	11.95
Grasim Ind	1673.60	-7.00
HCL Tech	1067.45	34.65
HDFC	2615.90	19.90
HDFC Bank	1597.50	3.10
HDFC Life	608.45	-3.20
Hero MotoCorp	2752.35	9.80
Hindalco	470.75	8.10
Hind Unilever	2624.05	47.60
ICICI Bank	873.35	3.25
IndusInd Bank	1218.65	36.75
Infosys	1484.45	35.95
ITC	338.05	3.00
JSW Steel	742.35	14.00
Kotak Bank	1811.90	25.10
L&T	2121.70	35.15
M&M	1310.35	45.45
Maruti Suzuki	8377.00	-6.05
NestleIndia	20085.70	200.45
NTPC	170.40	1.40
ONGC	148.15	0.80
PowerGrid Corp	209.10	1.00
Reliance Ind	2596.80	59.90
SBI Life	1306.35	37.30
State Bank	607.70	7.05
Sun Pharma	1016.85	8.15
TataConsumerProduct	766.95	5.60
Tata Motors	389.45	7.45
Tata Steel	117.55	1.90
TCS	3319.95	108.40
Tech Mahindra	1015.25	29.10
Titan	2484.65	-53.45
UltraTech Cement	7034.85	52.65
UPL	734.20	16.05
Wipro	391.80	9.80

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 09

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.16	82.48
Euro	87.69	88.03
British Pound	99.65	100.05
Japanese Yen (100)	61.95	62.19
Chinese Yuan	12.11	12.15
Swiss Franc	88.83	89.19
Singapore Dollar	61.59	61.85
Canadian Dollar	61.34	61.59
Malaysian Ringitt	18.77	18.86
Australian Dollar	56.76	57.03

Source:Indian Bank

OVL retakes 20% stake in Sakhalin-1 oil, gas fields

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

ONGC Videsh Ltd. has retaken 20% stake in the Sakhalin-1 oil and gas fields in the far east region of Russia, an official said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin had in October disbanded Exxon Neftegaz, a regional subsidiary of U.S.'s ExxonMobil, as operator of Sakhalin-1. Other former foreign shareholders - Japan's Sodeco consortium and ONGC Videsh - were asked to apply to Russia to regain their shareholdings in the project.

Polls in 2024 will make it tough to cut subsidy bill, says Moody's

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's 'deep domestic funding' access will help it bear the enhanced interest burden

High commodity prices will compel countries such as India to persist with food and fuel subsidies through 2023 and the upcoming general elections in early 2024 will make it difficult to reduce such support, Moody's Investors' Service signalled.

The rating agency expects India's debt burden to continue to rise or 'stabilise at a higher level' this year, as per its latest outlook on Asia-Pacific's sovereign creditworthiness which it termed as 'stable overall' compared with a 'negative outlook for sovereigns globally'.

Noting that social strains would keep deficits wider than before the pandemic, Moody's said that these, along with political and economic pressures, would delay fiscal tightening in several countries.

Elevated prices

"Elevated commodities prices will keep spending on food and fuel subsidies or other measures high, with little impetus to reduce support, particularly for economies with elections approaching in 2023 or early 2024, including Bangladesh and India," the rating agency said.

'Offset revenue gains'

"Higher interest costs in some countries will also offset gains in revenues."

Terming India as one of the countries that are still 'midstream' in post-pandemic recoveries, Moody's said that its 'deep domestic funding' access will help bear the enhanced interest burden expected due to higher interest rates across the world and a 'general risk aversion' in global capital markets.

NCLT scraps Torrent bid to stop second RCap auction

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), on Monday, rejected a plea by the Torrent Group, one of the bidders for the Anil Ambani-promoted Reliance Capital, seeking to halt the Committee of Creditors voting to hold a second round of auction.

Torrent Investments had given the highest offer of ₹8,640 crore for the debt-ridden firm, followed by Hinduja Group's ₹8,110 crore offer.

(With PTI inputs)

Sport

Sindhu returns to lead Indian campaign in season-opener at the Malaysia Open

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

P.V. Sindhu will face a tough test on her return from a five-month injury lay-off as top Indian shuttlers, including H.S. Prannoy and Lakshya Sen, will aim to start the year on a positive note at the Malaysia Open beginning on Tuesday.

Following a highly-successful 2022, the Indian stars will hope to raise the bar further in 2023, during which the Paris Olympic qualification period will start in May.

With plenty of ranking points at stake, the Indians join World No. 1 Viktor Axelsen, Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia, Akane Yamugachi, Tai Tzuying as they aim for a good show in the $1,250,000 Super 1000 tournament here.

Back in business: Sindhu has a tough assignment, matching wits with Marin. PTI

Double Olympic medallist Sindhu, who is returning from an ankle injury, begins her campaign against former World Champion Carolina Marin of Spain.

Sindhu last played at the Commonwealth Games in August and it will be an interesting battle against Marin, who has won the last three encounters against the Indian and also boasts of a better 9-5 head-to-head record.

Lakshya vs Prannoy

In the men's singles, World No. 10 Lakshya will engage with World No. 8 Prannoy in the opening round. Former World No. 1 K. Srikanth opens against Japan's unseeded Kenta Nishimoto.

In men's doubles, World No. 5 Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who won the CWG title, India Open and French Open in 2022, will cross swords with South Korea's Choi Sol-gyu and Kim Wan-ho in the first round.

In the fray

Saina Nehwal, Aakarshi Kashyap and Malvika Bansod are also in the fray in women's singles.

In women's doubles, CWG bronze medallists Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will take on Hong Kong's Yeung Nga Ting and Yeung Pui Lam in the first round, while Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam are pitted against Thailand's Supissara Paewsampran and Putita Supajirakul.

India's mixed doubles pair Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto will face Netherlands' Robin Tabeling and Selena Piek.

She Can lives up to her name in the feature event

HYDERABAD: Trainer R.H. Sequeira's She Can ridden by Akshay Kumar won the Byerly Turk Million (Gr. 3), the feature event of Monday's (Jan. 9) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Chitturi Krishna Kannaiah, Mr. Soma Raju Adipudi, Mr. Sureshbabu Daggubati & Mr. Venkatesh Daggubati.

1. DECCAN PRINCE PLATE (DIV. III): BELLAQUE (Suraj Narredu) 1, Fresh Hope (Ajay Kumar) 2, Happy Go Lucky (Kuldeep S) 3 and Lightning Fairy (G. Naresh) 4. Not run: High Reward. 2-1/2, 2-3/4 and 1/2. 1m, 13. 81s. ₹13 (w), 10, 13 and 12 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 38, SHW: 12 and 23, FP: 44, Q: 34, Tanala: 62. Favourite: Bellaque. Owners: Mr. Sudarshan Singh Rathore Kanwar & Mr. Rishiraj Singh Rathore. Trainer: D. Netto.

2. AGOSTINI PLATE: PLANET ROYALE (Suraj Narredu) 1, Queen Empress (Akshay Kumar) 2, Fly Me (Md. Ismail) 3 and Reigning Beauty (Afroz Khan) 4. 4-1/2, Shd and Nose. 1m, 13.11s. ₹15 (w), 10, 15 and 33 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 67, SHW: 10 and 15, FP: 44, Q: 28, Tanala: 396. Favourite: Planet Royale. Owner: Mr. T. Amarender Reddy. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

3. DECCAN PRINCE PLATE (DIV. II): STAY SMART (Gaurav Singh) 1, Baisa (Kiran Naidu) 2, Deccan Ranger (Santosh Raj) 3 and Blast In Class (Ajay Kumar) 4. 1-1/4, 2 and 2. 1m, 13.53s. ₹88 (w), 22, 10 and 19 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 45, SHW: 22 and 13, FP: 274, Q: 79, Tanala: 1,065. Favourite: Baisa. Owner: Kunwar Digvijay Singh Shekhawat. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh.

4. DECCAN PRINCE PLATE (DIV. I): N R I FANTASY (Ashad Asbar) 1, Sopranos (Akshay Kumar) 2, Delhi Heights (Surya Prakash) 3 and Explosive (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 4. Nk, 3 and 1-1/4. 1m, 13.34s. ₹16 (w), 10, 12 and 59, SHP: 26, THP: 135, SHW: 12 and 17, FP: 30, Q: 20, Tanala: 558. Favourite: N R I Fantasy. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer: G. Shashikanth.

5. G. VASUDEVA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP : THANKS (Kuldeep S) 1, La Mirage (Suraj Narredu) 2, Candy Girl (Gaurav Singh) 3 and True Icon (B. Nikhil) 4. 3/4,1-1/2 and Nk. 1m, 25.48s. ₹31 (w), 14, 11 and 17 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 43, SHW: 18 and 15, FP: 117, Q: 48, Tanala: 602. Favourite: La Mirage. Owner: Mrs. Lingala Aarti Reddy. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

6. BYERLY TURK MILLION: SHE CAN (Akshay Kumar) 1, Proud Mary (Suraj Narredu) 2, Bash On Regardless (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 3 and Sangreal (P. Trevor) 4. 2-1/2, 4-1/2 and 4. 1m, 12.39s. ₹13 (w), 10 and 11 (p). SHP: 19, THP: 51, SHW: 10 and 23, FP: 19, Q: 16, Tanala: 187. Favourite: She Can. Owners: Mr. Chitturi Krishna Kannaiah, Mr. Soma Raju Adipudi, Mr. Sureshbabu Daggubati & Mr. Venkatesh Daggubati. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

7. KASU BRAHMANANDA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP: BLACK ONYX (Akshay Kumar) 1, Ballerina (P. Trevor) 2, Trump Star (Santosh Raj) 3 and Ayr (Afroz Khan) 4. 2, 1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 11.38s. ₹25 (w), 12, 10 and 59 (p). SHP: 27, THP: 189, SHW: 13 and 15, FP: 46, Q: 21, Tanala: 894. Favourite: Ballerina. Owner: Mr. Rajeev Sharma. Trainer: Magan Singh.

8. MOMENT OF GLORY PLATE: INSIDE STORY (R.S. Jodha) 1, Good Tidings (Santosh Raj) 2, Canterbury (Md. Ekram Alam) 3 and Space Time (Aneel) 4. 1-1/4, 3-1/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 13.77s. ₹25 (w), 10, 14 and 14 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 54, SHW: 26 and 32, FP: 108, Q: 61, Tanala: 240. Favourite: Inside Story. Owner: Mr. Alagappa Murugappan. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹1,640 (250 tkts.) & 30%: 148 (1,180 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 4,087 (35 tkts.), (ii) 1,907 (141 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 264 (174 tkts.), (ii) 1,416 (17 tkts.), (iii) 212 (418 tkts.).

Aizawl FC, Real Kashmir left to rue missed chances in stalemate

I-LEAGUE

Press Trust of India
AIZAWL

Aizawl FC and Real Kashmir's defenders proved too strong and forwards too rusty as their I-League clash ended in a goalless draw here on Monday.

Subhasish Roy Chowdhury and Lalmuansanga, the two custodians, stood tall in a match characterised by missed opportunities.

The ball did find the net twice though, once for each side, but from offside positions.

Ruled offside

Aizawl's Ugandan forward Henry Kisekka curled in a right-footer from the left through the far post but was ruled offside in the eighth minute.

In the 28th minute, Real Kashmir's Ghanaian forward Ibrahim Nurudeen suffered the same fate.

Yakubu Wadudu sent in the cross from the right and Nurudeen headed it in, but he was clearly ahead of the last line of Aizawl defence.

One point from this match did not help either team but neither Aizawl coach Caetano Pinho, nor Real Kashmir's Mehrajuddin Wadoo sounded too disappointed.

The result kept Real Kashmir in the fourth spot with 17 points from 10 matches, while Aizawl is seventh with 13 points from the same number of games.

Barcelona takes pole position in race for LaLiga; Napoli extends its lead at the top of Serie A

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

Ousmane Dembele's strike sent Barcelona three points clear at the top of LaLiga with a tense 1-0 win over Atletico Madrid on Sunday.

Shorn of suspended top scorer Robert Lewandowski, Xavi selected Ansu Fati up front in his place, but it was Dembele who made the difference, finishing a slick move in the 22nd minute.

Atletico ramped up the pressure, with the superb Ronald Araujo clearing off the line from Antoine Griezmann at the death, but Diego Simeone's side could not find an equaliser.

Both teams finished with 10 men after Ferran Torres and Stefan Savic were sent off.

Napoli extended its lead at the top of Serie A to seven points on Sunday after winning 2-0 at Sampdoria while AC Milan threw away a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 with Roma.

The results: LaLiga: Almeria 0 lost to Real Sociedad 2 (Silva 47, Sorloth 52); Rayo Vallecano 1 (Camello 20) lost to Real Betis 2 (Balliu 7-og, Henrique 40); Sevilla 2 (Acuna 36, Mir 80) bt Getafe 1 (Mayoral 87); Atletico Madrid 0 lost to Barcelona 1 (Dembele 22).

Serie A: Lazio 2 (Felipe Anderson 2, Zaccagni 54) drew with Empoli 2 (Caputo 83, Marin 90+4); AC Milan 2 (Kalulu 30, Pobega 77) drew with Roma 2 (Ibanez 77, Abraham 90+2); Salernitana 1 (Vilhena 49) drew with Torino 1 (Sanabria 36); Sampdoria 0 lost to Napoli 2 (Osimhen 19, Elmas 82-pen).

The difference maker: Dembele's, left, strike was enough for Barcelona to beat Atletico. AFP

PUT ON HOLD

Injured Starc likely to miss first Test against India

Injured Australia pace bowler Mitchell Starc says he will most certainly miss the opening Test of the Border-Gavaskar series against India at Nagpur from February 9. But he should be available from the second Test. Starc hurt his bowling hand middle finger on the opening day of the Boxing Day Test against South Africa.

MOVING ON

France's goalkeeper Lloris quits international football

France's World Cup-winning captain Hugo Lloris announced his retirement from international football at the age of 36 on Monday. "I have always said over and over again that the French team doesn't belong to anyone, and we all have to make sure that's the case, me first," Lloris told *L'Equipe* in an interview.

SHIFTING PRIORITIES

SA all-rounder Pretorius retires from international cricket

South Africa all-rounder Dwaine Pretorius has retired from international cricket to shift "focus on T20 and other shorter formats". The 33-year-old has played 30 T20Is, 27 ODIs and three Tests since debut in 2016. His five for 17 against Pakistan in 2021 is the SA's bowling record in men's T20Is.

CALLING IT QUITS

Gareth Bale announces retirement from football

Gareth Bale announced his retirement from club and international football, bringing to an end one of the most decorated careers in British football history. Bale inspired Wales to qualify for two European Championships and a first World Cup since 1958 and won five CL titles in nine years at Real Madrid between 2013 and 2022.

Real countdown for World Cup begins as India and Sri Lanka switch to ODIs

BCCI first names, then pulls Bumrah out of squad as a precautionary measure; team management will focus on workload management even as it experiments to arrive at the perfect combination

SRI LANKA IN INDIA

Y.B. Sarangi
GUWAHATI

With just nine months left for the 50-over World Cup, the real countdown begins for India with the three-ODI series against Sri Lanka at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium here on Tuesday. India will host three countries – New Zealand and Australia being the others – for a three-match series against each at nine venues in the pre-Indian Premier League phase. While workloads will be closely monitored, one is certain to witness various experiments in this phase before a more settled unit fine-tunes itself in the final phase.

Stalwarts return

Even as captaincy changes hands with the switch in format, the home team will be inspired by the recent series victory, backed by some fine performances, over the islanders in the shortest version. Also, India has a better head-to-head record, including the win in the 2021 series in Colombo.

The return of two batting aces – captain Rohit Sharma (who injured his hand in the series against Bangladesh last month) and Virat Kohli – will be a huge morale-booster.

At the top, Shubman Gill is likely to pip fastest double centurion, wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan because of his consistency. And, given K.L. Rahul's ability to don the big gloves, Suryakumar Yadav may not find a place despite his dazzling T20 form.

All-rounder vice-captain Hardik Pandya will provide the crucial balance.

Premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah's name in the squad triggered anticipation before the Board of Control for Cricket in India pulled him out on Monday as a precautionary measure. Bumrah, who last played in September, has been recovering from a back injury.

Nevertheless, the return of speedster Mohammed Shami, who had been out with a shoulder issue since November, is encouraging. Mohammed Siraj, Umran Malik and Arshdeep Singh along with Hardik offer choices in the pace department.

The spin department is diverse with the presence of all-rounders Axar Patel and Washington Sundar and wrist-spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal.

Starting afresh

Sri Lanka, led by all-rounder Dasun Shanaka, will look forward to starting afresh and gathering valuable experience for the upcoming World Cup.

Apart from Shanaka, leading run-scorers Pathum Nissanka and Charith Asalanka are its key batters. Pacemen Dilshan Madushanka, Kasun Rajitha and Lahiru Kumara and spinners Wanindu Hasaranga, Maheesh Theekshana and Jeffrey Vandersay will be keen to taste success against the Indians.

The dew factor and the possibility of a high-scoring match in ODI cricket's return to Barsapara after 2018 will impact the teams' combinations.

The teams (from):

India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, K.L. Rahul (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Hardik Pandya (Vice-Capt.), Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Mohd. Shami, Mohd. Siraj, Umran Malik and Arshdeep Singh.

Sri Lanka: Dasun Shanaka (Capt.), Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Kusal Mendis (Vice-Capt.), Charith Asalanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Wanindu Hasaranga, Ashen Bandara, Maheesh Theekshana, Jeffrey Vandersay, Chamika Karunaratne, Dilshan Madushanka, Kasun Rajitha, Nuwanidu Fernando, Dunith Wellalage, Pramod Madushan and Lahiru Kumara.

Match begins at 1.30 p.m.

Duty calls: Rahul, seen at practice in Guwahati on Monday, may have to don the big gloves as well for the sake of team balance. RITU RAJ KONWAR

India-Sri Lanka H2H in ODIs

	Matches	India	Sri Lanka	Tied	NR
Overall	162	**93**	57	1	11
In India	51	**36**	12	0	3

The schedule

First ODI: Jan. 10, Guwahati, **Second ODI:** Jan. 12, Kolkata
Third ODI: Jan. 15, Thiruvananthapuram

All matches start at 1.30 p.m.

I've not decided to give up T20: Rohit

Y.B. Sarangi
GUWAHATI

Skipper Rohit Sharma has said that even though workload management is important, he has not decided to give up T20 cricket.

Ahead of India's three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka, Rohit said some players, including him, needed a break.

"It was made clear in the past that it's a 50-over World Cup year for us. And for some of the guys it's not possible to play all formats. If you look at the schedule, there were back-to-back matches. So we decided on looking at some players' workload. We wanted to make sure that they get enough break time and manage them. I definitely fall in that [category]," said Rohit in the pre-match press conference here on Monday.

"We have only six T20Is, three are over. So we'll manage to look after those boys till the Indian Premier League (IPL)... But certainly, I've not decided to give up the format."

Rohit. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Rohit regretted that pacer Jasprit Bumrah's comeback was delayed. "It was a very unfortunate incident with him. The poor guy has been working really hard at the National Cricket Academy (NCA). Just when he got back to his full fitness and started bowling, (in) the last two days he felt a little bit of stiffness in his back. It is nothing major," said Rohit.

Star India seeks discount

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's home season media rights holder Star India has asked the BCCI for a ₹130 crore discount in the existing deal while jersey sponsor BYJU's, which is on its way out, wants the board to encash bank guarantee worth an estimated ₹140 crore to honour the current agreement.

The BCCI top brass deliberated (virtually) on the two subjects for more than an hour in the emergent meeting of the Apex Council on Monday.

Hope we can take women's cricket to a higher level this year, says Smriti

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Making her point: Smriti underlined the importance of fitness and said nutrition has become a vital aspect. EMMANUAL YOGINI

India's women cricketers fell just a step short of winning their maiden T20 World Cup title in 2020. Ahead of the next edition, Smriti Mandhana, the vice-captain, isn't putting too much pressure on herself – and her teammates - in order to bring back the trophy from South Africa in February.

"I am not a person who is huge on setting targets. I am not someone who says I'll do this and do that. Let's hope we can take women's cricket to a higher level this year," Smriti told *The Hindu* while responding to a query on her targets for 2023. "We shall try and do whatever we can to achieve it. Hopefully towards the end of the year, we will have a few trophies and inspire a lot of other girls to play cricket."

Smriti, the stylish opener, is coming off yet another magnificent year in international cricket, tallying almost 1,200 runs combined in ODIs and T20Is. While she was delighted "with my effort and especially with the Commonwealth Games medal", she played down the hype surrounding the Women's Indian Premier League.

Smriti was speaking on the sidelines of an event to announce her association with Herbalife Nutrition. She stressed that the awareness about nutritional aspect has been on the rise in women's cricket.

"In the last four-five years, it's grown a lot. Earlier cricket was termed as a skill-sport a lot but now with the increased number of games and hectic schedule we have, nutrition has become a vital aspect for fitness," she said.

"It'll be one of the most important aspects going forward. Even for me, post my ACL (injury rehab in 2017), I am more aware about my nutrition – how much protein intake I should have and hydration levels, understanding my body better and plan accordingly, besides gym and physical conditioning. If we have to compete at the highest level be the top team in the world, we have to look after ourselves and nutrition is one of the most important parts of it."

Naseem and batters shine in Pakistan's win

Star: Naseem's spell (5/57) derailed the visitor's innings. AFP

Agence France-Presse
KARACHI

Fast bowler Naseem Shah picked up five wickets before the trio of Fakhar Zaman, Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan all scored half-centuries as Pakistan chased down a target of 256 for a comfortable six-wicket win over New Zealand on Monday.

Opener Zaman (56) and captain Azam (66) stitched together a partnership of 78 runs, with Rizwan then scoring an unbeaten 77 off 86 balls to guide Pakistan over the finish line and help them take a 1-0 lead in the three-match ODI series.

Michael Bracewell was the pick of the bowlers for New Zealand, dismissing Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq, with Tim Southee and Glenn Phillips also taking a wicket apiece.

Earlier on Monday, 19-year-old Naseem picked up his second five-wicket haul in international cricket to help Pakistan restrict New Zealand to 255 for nine after putting the visitors in to bat.

Day to remember

Spinner Usama Mir had a debut to remember, taking the wickets of Kane Williamson and Latham.

The scores: New Zealand 255/9 in 50 overs (Michael Bracewell 43, Tom Latham 42, Glenn Phillips 37, Daryl Mitchell 36; Naseem Shah 5/57) lost to Pakistan 258/4 in 48.1 overs (Fakhar Zaman 56, Babar Azam 66, Mohd. Rizwan 77 n.o.). **Toss:** Pakistan.

Germany, Australia trade top honours over two editions

WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Sweet revenge: The Australian team celebrates with the trophy after beating Germany in the final in 2010. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

2006, Monchengladbach (Sept. 6-17)

Playing at home for the first time, Germany made up for all the lost chances, winning its second consecutive World Cup title, defeating Australia 4-3 in a repeat of the final from four years ago. It also became only the second team to do so after Pakistan and also the second team to win at home after the Netherlands.

The host dominated all the way, without losing a single game and being stretched to the penalties only once, in the semifinal against eventual bronze medalist Spain.

Australia, meanwhile, suffered a single loss – again to Spain – but established its position in the world, Jamie Dwyer being named Player-of-the-Tournament.

India started well, matching Germany till the very end in its opening game before Christopher Zeller struck the winner in the dying seconds. It was all downhill after that, India failing to win a single game and just a draw against South Africa, whom it beat again to avoid the wooden spoon in the competition which went back to being a 12-team affair.

Top three: Germany, Australia, Spain; **India:** 11th.

2010, New Delhi (Feb. 28-March 13)

The second time India hosted the tournament, it was also a precursor to the Commonwealth Games but was preceded by several governance and player issues. The tournament was overseen by an ad-hoc committee under the sports ministry with the Indian Hockey Federation suspended. The players went on a flash strike demanding better remuneration and match fees, the run-up to tournament was an organisational mess, but once it began, the quality of competition was top-class.

Australia won its second title, finally avenging its two consecutive final losses to Germany 2-1. India started with a comprehensive 4-1 win against Pakistan in the first game between the two sides in the World Cup since losing the battle for bottom-place in 1986. But that was the only bright spot for the team that finished a lowly eighth in front of home crowds.

Top three: Australia, Germany, the Netherlands; **India:** Eighth.

INBRIEF

Djokovic, Kyrgios to play Oz Open practice match

Novak Djokovic and Nick Kyrgios will play a practice match in front of paying spectators on Friday at the Rod Laver Arena. "Get set for explosive action as tennis' most famous frenemies come together on RLA for an exciting practice match," the Australian Open tweeted on Monday. Proceeds from the match will go to charity.

Jon Rahm storms back to win Tournament of Champions

Jon Rahm overtook Collin Morikawa with a 10-under 63 in the final round to win the Sentry Tournament of Champions golf in Kapalua, Hawaii (USA) on Sunday. Rahm finished at 27-under 265 for the week, with Morikawa shooting a 72 and having to settle for second at 25-under 267. Tom Hoge (64 on Sunday) and Max Homa (66) were tied for third at 23 under.

Australian Open no-show fuels fears for Osaka's future

Naomi Osaka has not played a tennis match since September and her withdrawal from next week's Australian Open has raised concerns that the former World No. 1 may never appear on court again. Osaka's social media accounts have stayed silent since Tennis Australia tweeted on Sunday that the two-time Melbourne champion would miss the first Grand Slam of the year, giving no reason for her absence. She is now ranked 47 in the world, having hit the summit for the first time in 2019.

Chelsea forward Pulisic out for at least two weeks

Chelsea forward Christian Pulisic will be sidelined for at least two weeks with a knee injury, manager Graham Potter said. The winger hurt his right knee while attempting a shot on goal in a 1-0 loss to Manchester City in the Premier League on Thursday. "Christian just opened up his knee in the game the other day so we're still analyzing it. It's going to be weeks, I would say," Potter said.

LIVE TELECAST

BWF Malaysia Open: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 7.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
India vs Sri Lanka: 1st ODI, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.
SA 20: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 9 p.m.

Top of the table clash as upbeat Karnataka takes on Rajasthan

The host enters the contest full of confidence, having forced a win over Chhattisgarh in its previous outing, while the visitor, which narrowly missed beating Jharkhand, will look to do one better

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Karnataka and Rajasthan, the top two sides in Elite Group 'C', go face to face in the Ranji Trophy at Alur (II) here on Tuesday.

Karnataka, which gained a win over Chhattisgarh in the previous fixture, is at the helm with 19 points. Rajasthan, with one win and three draws so far, lies second with 14 points.

Karnataka enters this fixture full of confidence, having forced a win over Chhattisgarh at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here a few days ago. Chhattisgarh had entered the final day set for a draw, but a terrific effort from pacer Vyshak Vijaykumar triggered a collapse. Out of nowhere, Chhattisgarh was dismissed for 177 in the second essay, allowing Karnataka to knock off the 123-run target in the evening session.

New-ball pairing

Rajasthan will have to contend with a fine new ball pairing in Vyshak and Vidwath Kaverappa.

While Vyshak hits the deck and moves the ball in, Kaverappa keeps a tight line and takes it out. Vyshak and Kaverappa have 17 wickets each, making them the leading bowlers for the side.

Captain Mayank Agarwal's return to form also augurs well for the home side. Mayank made a crucial 117 against Chhattisgarh, improving upon his three fifties earlier in the tournament. His opening partner R. Samarth is in great touch as well, only narrowly missing out on recording four centuries in a row.

Main man: Skipper Mayank Agarwal's return to form with a century against Chhattisgarh augurs well for Karnataka. SUDHAKARA JAIN

One-drop Nikin Jose may be early in his First Class career, but the temperament and clean technique displayed in his batting shows that he belongs at this level.

Karnataka will expect more from its spinners K. Gowtham and Shreyas Gopal.

Off-spinner Gowtham competes with great desire and enthusiasm, but the wickets have eluded him. Shreyas has bowled only 48 overs in three matches, and has three wickets to his name.

All guns blazing

Rajasthan went all guns blazing for a win against Jharkhand, and only fell short on time.

Yash Kothari led the charge on the final day with an 85-ball 95, with the side needing 276 to win in quick time. Debutant Karan Lamba made his mark with an unbeaten 122 in the first essay.

Experienced left-arm pacers Tanveer Ul-Haq and Aniket Choudhary can trouble the Karnataka batters with their accuracy and movement.

RANJI TROPHY SCHEDULE (ROUND FIVE)

Elite: Group A: Bengal vs. Baroda (Kalyani); Haryana vs. Nagaland (Lahli); Himachal Pradesh vs. Odisha (Nadaun); Uttar Pradesh vs. Uttarakhand (Lucknow).
Group B: Assam vs. Mumbai (Guwahati); Delhi vs. Andhra (New Delhi); Hyderabad vs. Saurashtra (Hyderabad); Maharashtra vs. Tamil Nadu (Pune).
Group C: Jharkhand vs. Chhattisgarh (Jamshedpur); Karnataka vs. Rajasthan (Alur); Kerala vs. Services (Thiruvananthapuram); Goa vs. Pondicherry (Porvorim).
Group D: Punjab vs. Jammu & Kashmir (Mohali); Chandigarh vs. Vidarbha (Chandigarh); Madhya Pradesh vs. Gujarat (Indore); Railways vs. Tripura (Surat).
Plate: Sikkim vs. Arunachal Pradesh (Rangpo); Meghalaya vs. Manipur (Shillong); Mizoram vs. Bihar (Nadiad).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Varsha's ton helps Karnataka win big

Captain U. Varsha scored a brilliant century to help Karnataka start its championship defence with a thumping 174-run win over West Bengal in the IndusInd Bank Women's T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind 2023 at Altiore Sports Green Park ground in Bengaluru on Monday.

Batting first, Karnataka scored 238/3 in 17 overs. In reply, West Bengal could only make 64/7 in 17 overs.

At the Cricbiz ground, Delhi defeated Kerala by 67 runs. Kerala could only manage 102/6 in its 17 overs, chasing a target of 170 set by Delhi.

The overs were reduced in both matches due to dew on the field.

Devadeth nets winner

Devadeth's goal helped HAL FC defeat Parikrma FC 1-0 in the BDFA 'A' division football league.

The results: HAL FC 1 (Devadeth 10) bt Parikrma FC 0; Bangalore Gunners FC 2 (J.C. Rivaldo 37, Cyril Justin 56) bt Sree Gajanana FC 1 (T. Shivakumar 65).

Subramaya advances

Subramaya Rao took out Nadeem Azeez 52-77, 68-58, 67-45 in the quarterfinals of the M. Chenniappan Memorial veteran snooker tournament here.

Om Sai holds Rangers

Rangers HC was held to a 3-3 draw by Om Sai (Dharwad) in the KSHA 'A' division hockey league.

The result: Rangers HC 3 (Dharmendra 7, Suresh 9, 22) drew with Om Sai (Dharwad) 3 (M. Arun 12, 46, Purushotham 35).

Lagad beats World champ Rudrankksh

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lagad Saurav Gorakh beat the reigning World champion Rudrankksh Patil 17-9 for the top spot in men's air rifle in the National shooting selection trials on Monday.

Kiran Jadhav took the third place ahead of qualification topper Hriday Hazarika (631.0).

In the 25-metre rapid fire pistol event, Vijayveer Sidhu beat Olympic silver medallist Vijay Kumar 28-22.

The results:

10m air rifle: Men: 1. Lagad Saurav Gorakh 17 (261.5) 629.7; 2. Rudrankksh Patil 9 (261.5) 629.7; 3. Kiran Jadhav 261.3 (629.6); 4. Hriday Hazarika 259.8 (631.0).
Junior men: 1. Parth Mane 17 (262.2) 627.4; 2. Sachin 9 (261.4) 628.5; 3. Sheersh Kashyap 260.5 (628.3); 4. Parikshit Brar 260.1 (627.3).
25m rapid fire pistol: Men: 1. Vijayveer Sidhu 28 (12) 579; 2. Vijay Kumar 22 (15) 571; 3. Bhavesh Shekhawat 15 (11) 579; 4. Ankur Goel 11 (16) 581.
Junior men: 1. Sameer Gulia 30 (13) 567; 2. Mahesh Anandakumar 27 (13) 577; 3. Rajkanwar Sandhu 20 (14) 573; 4. Tanishq Naidu 5 (11) 568.
50m rifle 3-position: Women: 1. Sift Kaur Samra 17 (410.4) 583; 2. Anjum Moudgil 5 (410.8) 585; 3. Manini Kaushik 407.1 (590); 4. Nischal 402.2 (585).
Junior women: 1. Nupur Kumrawat 16 (396.7) 571; 2. Nikita Kundu 12 (397.3) 583; 3. Mahit Sandhu 396.2 (568); 4. Khushi 392.1 (566).

Sharath-Sathiyan slip at the threshold of a memorable victory

TABLE TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Sharath Kamal and G. Sathiyan came within four points of completing a memorable victory over China's non-regular doubles pair of Ma Long and Yuan Licen before fading out in the second round of the Asian WTTC Continental Stage table tennis tournament in Doha on Monday.

After gaining a first-round bye, Sharath and Sathiyan took a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven match by converting the fifth set point in the fourth set.

Keeping pace

The Commonwealth Games silver medallists kept pace with the Chinese till 7-7 in the fifth set to move closer to an unexpected victory.

However, from this stage, it was Ma Long and Yuan Licen all the way. They wrapped up the fifth set without dropping another point and raced away with the last two sets for the loss of just seven points. Eventually, the Chinese won 4-11, 10-12, 11-5, 13-15, 11-7, 11-2, 11-5.

India's other pair of Harmeet Desai and Manush Shah moved into the quarterfinals by beating Iranians Amir Hossein Hodaei and Amin Ahmadian 4-1

Sathiyan and Manika Batra won but Commonwealth Games gold medallists Sharath and Sreeja lost in mixed doubles

India's other pair of Harmeet Desai and Manush Shah moved into the quarterfinals by beating Iranians Amir Hossein Hodaei and Amin Ahmadian 4-1.

As expected, formidable Koreans Jihee Jeon and Yubin Shin defeated Sreeja Akula and Reeth Rishya 4-0 in women's doubles.

In mixed doubles, Sathiyan and Manika Batra won but Sharath and Sreeja lost.

The results (doubles, second round, involving Indians):
Men: Ma Long & Yuan Licen (Chn) bt Sharath Kamal & G. Sathiyan 4-11, 10-12, 11-5, 13-15, 11-7, 11-2, 11-5; Harmeet Desai & Manush Shah bt Amir Hossein Hodaei & Amin Ahmadian (Iri) 11-9, 15-13, 11-4, 9-11, 11-6.
Women: Jihee Jeon & Yubin Shin (Kor) bt Sreeja Akula & Reeth Rishya 11-6, 11-8, 11-8, 11-2.
Mixed: Sathiyan & Manika Batra bt Hiroto Shinozuka & Miyuu Kihara (Jpn) 11-9, 12-10, 11-7, 5-11, 11-7; Ho Kwan Kit & Zhu Chengzhu (Hkg) bt Sharath & Sreeja 11-6, 12-10, 11-7, 11-6.

Martinez. REUTERS

Martinez named Portugal's new manager

Reuters
LISBON

Former Belgium coach Roberto Martinez has been named the new manager of Portugal's national squad, the country's football federation (FPF) said on Monday.

Martinez, from Spain, stepped down as Belgium's coach following his side's World Cup group stage exit, saying he had made the decision to end his six-year tenure some time ago and would have left even if they had been crowned champions.

Martinez, 49, is replacing former Portugal coach Fernando Santos, who also left his job after the team suffered a shock defeat by Morocco in the World Cup quarterfinals.

Muller decides against international retirement

Associated Press
QATAR

Thomas Müller ruled out international retirement Monday after Germany's failure at the World Cup, saying he will remain available for selection. "I was emotional after the game and it was a sad moment," he said Monday. "I've been communicating with Hansi Flick. For as long as I am a professional soccer player, I will always be available for national team."

Messi vs Mbappe Part II: World Cup stars chase *Ballon d'Or*

LIGUE 1

Associated Press
PARIS

Mbappe played for PSG 10 days after losing the final in Qatar, showing great determination to put that defeat behind him

Lionel Messi finally has something Kylian Mbappe already had with a World Cup winners' medal. Now Mbappe wants what Messi has won many times: the *Ballon d'Or*.

After their fascinating duel in a wild World Cup final, the tournament's best player Messi and its top scorer Mbappe are firm front-runners to win the next men's *Ballon d'Or*.

Call it Messi vs. Mbappe Part II, and it continues on Wednesday when the Paris Saint-Germain teammates face Angers in a French league game.

Messi was given an extended break back home in Argentina after the World Cup, but has resumed full training and PSG coach Christophe Galtier hopes he'll be ready to play.

Because they play for the same team, their rivalry could intensify over the rest of this season.

The 35-year-old Messi has won a record seven *Ballon d'Or* trophies. Only five Frenchmen – including Zinedine Zidane and Karim Benzema – have won it but the 24-year-old Mbappe has never been on the podium.

A challenger this time could be prolific Manchester City striker Erling Haaland, but he didn't play at the World Cup – let alone star in it – after Norway failed to qualify.

Mbappe played for PSG 10 days after losing the final in Qatar, showing great determination to put that defeat behind him.

The *Ballon d'Or* race has the makings of a classic contest between the teammates, since they were both in fine form for PSG before heading to the World Cup.

Mbappe tops the league scoring charts with 13 goals and Messi is tied with PSG teammate Neymar for the most assists (10). Mbappe is co-top scorer in the Champions League with seven goals, while Messi again heads the assists chart with four.

Messi won the Champions League four times with former club Barcelona, where he became a superstar and scored 672 goals before joining PSG last season.

PSG has never won the Champions League and this could prove a key factor in *Ballon d'Or* consideration – especially if Mbappe leads the French giant to the European title.

Mates and rivals: Because Messi and Mbappe play for the same team, the race could intensify over the rest of this season. AFP